MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1981

Lebanese Situation

Military Situation--According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) again fired on an Israeli plane flying over Al-Biqa' valley but failed to hit it. Beirut Radio reported that artillery and rocket exchanges continued in the French redoubt area of the Sannin heights.

Beirut radio also said Israeli planes flew over Beirut and southern Lebanon, and it reported that clashes flared up in Beirut the evening of 14 May but later eased. According to the Voice of Lebanon, however, clashes continued in several areas of Beirut throughout the night and the morning of 15 May. The Voice of Lebanon also claimed Syrian forces shelled residential and industrial areas of Zahlah on 14 May and the morning of 15 May, although Beirut radio said Zahlah was quiet the morning of 15 May.

In the south, Beirut radio reported, the Jba' area came under Israeli and Christian militia artillery fire, while IDF radio said the "terrorists" shelled Christian villages north of Metulla.

Habib Mission--According to Damascus radio, U.S. Envoy Philip Habib left Damascus for Israel 14 May following a brief visit during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The clandestine Voice of Palestine said that Al-Asad reiterated his refusal to withdraw Syrian missiles from Lebanon. The Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ reported a later meeting between Habib and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and, citing Israeli sources, said that Habib apparently returned to Israel "emptyhanded" and that Israel could not accept or agree to Damascus' so-called proposals. HA'ARETZ cited Western sources as describing Habib's talks in Damascus as "absolutely unsatisfactory" but contrasted this to remarks by an Israeli Government source, who said that things do not look so bad. According to IDF Radio, Begin and Habib met again the morning of 15 May.

Khaddam Interview--SANA quoted Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as saying in an interview with the London newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syrian missiles were moved to Lebanon to form a protective cover for the ADF and will not be pulled out. Khaddam asserted that Syria will not yield. He said that it was a Syrian decision to station missiles in Lebanon and that the Soviet Union supports Syria "firmly and clearly." Khaddam also said that when Begin carries out his threats, he will find that the missiles are not toys. The United States should exert its efforts in Israel, he continued, because it was Israel that began the provocations. The foreign minister added that he had explained the Syrian view clearly to U.S. Envoy Habib and that Habib might return to Damascus after his trip to Israel.

SANA quoted the foreign minister as saying that the peace formula acceptable to Syria requires Israel to stop its aggression and provocations. Syria does not want war, he said.

Khaddam noted in the interview that some of the Lebanese parties in the Lebanese Front really want an accord, and said the Phalangists' control over Zahlah threatens not only Syria's security but Lebanon's as well. He stressed that Syria rejects the internationalization of the Lebanese problem because this would mean the division of the country.

Khaddam revealed that the Arab states committed to financing the ADF suddenly stopped doing so and that this had encouraged certain Lebanese groups and had given them the impression that the Arab states oppose the ADF. He suggested that if the Arabs had discussed this decision with Syria beforehand, an agreement more useful to Lebanon would have been reached. The issue is political, however, and the decisions were wrong, Khaddam said.

Reaction to Drone Downing--In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin characterized the 14 May downing of an Israeli drone by a Syrian SAM-6 as a very grave act. IDF Radio quoted Begin as saying that the missiles are a danger to Israeli national security. According to Jerusalem television, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan emphasized that freedom of action in Lebanese airspace is vital for Israel's security and for its ability to maintain a reasonable state of deterrence. Jerusalem radio reported that Eytan also said the Syrians are making preparatory moves in the Golan Heights, although their moves there could not prove an intention to attack.

A Damascus radio commentary said that Syria proved the seriousness of its decision to confront Israel when it downed an Israeli plane. The radio interpreted this action as a demonstration that Syria has a legitimate right to defend its own and Lebanon's security, that it rejects all forms of extortion, threats and maneuvers and that its stand will not be subject to even the slightest change.

Soviet Envoy's Comments--Beirut radio reported that after meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov told reporters that in its efforts to help achieve a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis the Soviet Union is holding contacts with many countries, including the United States. He said both the USSR and the United States are making efforts to establish peace and that U.S. Envoy Habib's mission is part of this effort. According to the Voice of Lebanon, Soldatov also denied that there are Soviet experts or soldiers in Lebanon.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has said that if war broke out between Syria and Israel, Iraq would fight beside Syria despite its currently poor relations with the Syrian Government. In an interview published in the 13 May edition of the London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Hammadi also revealed that during his recent meeting with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper he had reiterated that Iraq cannot resume diplomatic relations with the United States until the U.S. attitude toward the Arab-Israeli dispute changes. He also denied that Iraq is annoyed with the Soviet Union's position on the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Tour--After meeting in Algiers with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the first leg of a tour of North Africa, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said his discussions with Bendjedid had covered all aspects of the Middle East situation, Algiers radio reported. In a predeparture statement reported by the radio, 'Arafat criticized recent statements by U.S. officials, which he said encouraged Israeli aggression.

'Arafat later arrived in Libya, where he addressed a Tripoli rally on the anniversary of the 15 May 1948 "usurpation of Palestine." In his speech, broadcast live by Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio, 'Arafat accused the United States of being the leader of organized international terrorism, as demonstrated by its support of Israeli actions in southern Lebanon.

In a speech at the same rally, also broadcast live by the radio, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that 'Arafat's visit constituted a reply to the U.S. expulsion of Libyan diplomats. If the United States thinks it can use pressure to force an end to Libyan support of the Palestinian struggle, Al-Qadhdhafi said, then "to hell with America." He pledged that Libya is prepared to give the Palestinian resistance all the arms it can absorb. In order to restore Lebanon's independence, Al-Qadhdhafi continued, the Palestinian resistance and Lebanon should accept volunteers to fight at their side. Libya is willing to supply missiles to Lebanon, he said, but Lebanon must define its position and decide whether to accept Arab armies or Israeli aggression. Al-Qadhdhafi concluded by denouncing the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia--whom he termed "swine"--for being "quite happy" to see Lebanon and the Palestinian people destroyed.

Arab People's Conference--Damascus radio carried a political statement issued at the close of a joint meeting in Damascus of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, pan-Arab popular and vocational organizations and armed liberation movements in the Arab homeland. According to the radio, the statement listed the issues that will be covered in a forthcoming "political report," including one on the implementation of measures striking against U.S. economic and military interests in retaliation for U.S. aggression and bias toward Israel.

Egypt

Addressing a 14 May joint meeting of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on occasion of the anniversary of the 15 May "corrective revolution," President Anwar as-Sadat urged Syria and Israel to keep their "hands off" Lebanon. In his speech, broadcast live by Cairo radio, As-Sadat said that the Syrian Army should leave Lebanon in order to deny Israel its pretext for involvement there and that the Lebanese Army should fill the vacuum. If the Lebanese Army could not do so, he added, a UN emergency force should assume responsibility for Lebanese security.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 094 *15 May 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Chatti Cables Muslim 'Leaders' on Lebanon A 1
PLO Official Expects War; Explains Mobilization A 1
[Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 12 May]
'Arafat Leaves for Libya, Tunisia, Algeria [VOP] A 2
'Arafat Seeks Arab Unity; Gulf War Must End [VOP] A 3
Lebanon Crisis Called Chance for Restoring Unity [VOP] A 4
Cuban Communist Party Cables Support to 'Arafat [VOP] A 5
Chatti Ends Iran, Iraq Visits; Comments on Talks A 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Concern Expressed Over Mitterrand Mideast Stand C 1
[AS-SIYASAH 12 May]

YAR

President Views Ties With USSR, Other Gulf Issues C 1
[Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 13 May]

EGYPT

'Ali, Officials Prepare for Coming Sterner Visit D 1
Foreign Minister Briefed by Envoy to Israel D 1
Leaders of Abortive 1971 Coup Reported Released D 1
Briefs: Cooperation With Italy D 1

IRAQ

Hammadi on U.S. Ties, Iran War, Arab Solidarity E 1
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 May]
AL-JUMHURIYAH Comments on Syrian-Israeli Crisis E 8

LEBANON

Al-Wazzan, U.S. Ambassador Meet on Habib Mission G 1
Al-Wazzan Interviewed on Missiles, Situation G 1
Soviet Envoy Meets With Sarkis, Views Situation G 1
Views on Peace Efforts G 1
Denial of Soviet Presence G 2
'Sources' Deny Riyaq Airbase Under Syrian Control G 2

SYRIA

Khaddam Interviewed on Missiles in Lebanon H 1
Arab People's Conference Political Statement H 3
Damascus Reiterates Immutable Stand on Lebanon H 5
Paper Declares Syria Will Not Yield to Threats H 6
USSR's Umarov Praises Syria's Steadfastness H 7
Meeting in Solidarity With Palestinians Opens H 7

ISRAEL

Reportage on Begin-Habib Contacts 14-15 May I 1
14 May Meeting I 1
HA'ARETZ Report I 1
Later Report I 2
15 May Talk I 2
Begin Comments I 2
Begin Terms Syrian Downing of Drone 'Very Serious' I 2
Eytan Says Flights Over Lebanon To Continue I 3
Peres Visits North, Comments on Drone Downing I 4

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

'Arafat Meets With Bendjedid; Departs 14 May Q 1
Bendjedid Meeting Q 1
Departure Statement Q 1

LIBYA

'Arafat, Al-Qadhdhafi Address Rally for Palestine Q 1
'Arafat Address Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Address Q 3

EAST AFRICA

DJIBOUTI

President Gouled Congratulates Mitterrand R 1

ETHIOPIA

Communique on COPWE Delegation Visit to Greece R 1

UGANDA

Muwanga Leaves for Africa, Middle East Tour R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Commentary Views Election of Francois Mitterrand S 1

ZAIRE

USSR Parliamentary Delegation Received by Mobutu S 1

WEST AFRICA

IVORY COAST

President Sends Congratulations to Mitterrand T 1
[FRATERNITE MATIN 13 May]
Communique Seeks Release of Drafted Workers T 1

NIGERIA

Radio Urges NLC To Seek Sound Legislative Changes T 2
Kaduna Governor Files Impeachment Challenge T 2
STANDARD Opposes Repeal of Clark Amendment T 2
Briefs: Oil Production T 2

TOGO

African Denunciation of Botha Visit to U.S. Noted T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Mobutu, Dos Santos Discuss Cooperation, Namibia U 1

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Issues Communique on Botha's U.S. Visit U 1

CHATTI CABLES MUSLIM 'LEADERS' ON LEBANON

LD141650 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1325 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Jidda, 14 May (SPA)--Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, has called on the Muslim leaders to use their good offices with the great powers by requesting that they face up to their responsibilities by putting pressure on the Zionist enemy to halt the annihilation war being waged against Palestinians and to stop its interference in Lebanon, thus enabling the Lebanese sides to realize national harmony and allow life to return to normal.

In the letters he sent to the leaders of the Muslim countries in this respect, Mr Chatti said: We observe that the West confines itself to expressing regret and concern, without condemning the treacherous actions of the Zionist enemy in Lebanon. The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization refuted the Israeli claims regarding the protection of Christians in Lebanon--without being asked--while at the same time striking against civilians and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

PLO OFFICIAL EXPECTS WAR; EXPLAINS MOBILIZATION

LD141409 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 May 81 p 8

["Correspondent report" on press conference given in Kuwait by Salim az-Za'nun, vice chairman of the Palestine National Council and Fatah representative in Kuwait and the Gulf, on 11 May]

[Excerpts] Adib az-Za'nun, vice chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and Fatah representative in Kuwait and the Gulf, said that a decision has been made to declare general mobilization in the ranks of the Palestinian organizations and that the PLO offices welcome brothers who wish to join.

Abu al-Adib [Az-Za'nun] was speaking at a press conference held at the PLO office in Kuwait and attended by head of the PLO office 'Awni Battash, chief of Fatah information in Kuwait 'Arabi 'Abdallah, and a number of local and foreign journalists.

Beginning his press conference, Abu al-Adib said: We are holding this press conference at the request of the PNC members in Kuwait, representatives of the Palestinian resistance and leaders of the Palestinian popular unions who met on 9 May in an emergency meeting to discuss the present critical situation through which our Arab and Palestinian problem is passing.

You know that the first chapter of our present tragedy began when the U.S.-Zionist plan isolated the Arab people of Egypt from the battle through the Camp David accords. Afterwards the Arabs tried to build up their northeastern front at the Baghdad summit, but the second chapter of the conspiracy took place by striking at Arab solidarity and undermining the success achieved at the Baghdad summit. Thus relations between neighboring and non-neighboring Arab countries deteriorated. This gave the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy the opportunity to infiltrate the Gulf region by fabricating the story of a foreign threat and magnifying the Soviet danger to distract attention from the real danger, U.S. imperialism and Zionism. As a result the area has begun to live in fear of intervention by the Rapid Deployment Force which is being prepared for this purpose. On the other hand, Israel has been given the green light to finish off what is left of Arab steadfastness represented in Syria, the Palestinian resistance, and the Lebanese National Movement.

He continued: Therefore, what Begin said yesterday about Syria and the Palestinian resistance was the result of what the U.S. plan has achieved in our area. Israel wants to control the airspace around occupied Palestine. If Israel, God forbid, can prevent the installation of missiles--which are defensive weapons--in Al-Biqa', it can ensure total control of the skies around occupied Palestine. In other words, it will indirectly control greater Syria, and Jordan will never be able to deploy weapons east of the river. The success of Begin's threat also means that the Maronite state which is associated with the state of the traitor Sa'd Haddad will be established in Lebanon and will revolve in the Israeli orbit as does the Egyptian regime.

Replying to a question regarding Libya's readiness to support the Palestinian revolution against Israeli attacks, Abu al-Adib said:

We have welcomed the Libyan gesture and we greatly appreciate it. The revolution command held consultations with Libya on Syria in Damascus. Since Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu 'Ammar [Yasi 'Arafat] visited Libya about a week ago, Libya has been carrying out large-scale activities in order to back the Palestinian revolution in all fields.

[Question] Does the declaration of general mobilization mean the setting up of military training camps in the Arab countries?

[Answer] We hope that the Arab countries will agree to the setting up of military training camps for the training of the Palestinians. But the matter requires contacts with the Arab countries. Such contacts will shortly be carried out by delegations representing the PLO Executive Committee, which will seek to implement the resolutions adopted at the 15th PNC conference regarding the need to mobilize the Palestinians and train them wherever they may be. This will take some time. But what is meant by mobilization at present is that we have a number of young Palestinians who have already been trained or have previously served in the ranks of the revolution and have jobs in Arab countries. These people are the revolution's reserve, whom we ask to report to our offices to join the fighters.

[Question] In the even of Syrian-Israeli confrontation, do you expect the Soviet Union to play a role?

[Answer] Given the world's present balance of power the Soviet Union will not stand idly by if confrontation occurs between Syria and the Zionist enemy. This has been confirmed by the Soviet leadership more than once. The Syrian prime minister's recent statements on defending the Palestinian revolution and resisting every Israeli aggression are dictated by the facts of the general challenge in the area. I do not think that anybody would tolerate the Israeli arrogance which calls on Syria to adopt attitudes that no independent state accepts, particularly since the missiles in Lebanon are defensive. Whoever wants to defuse the situation in Lebanon must first stop the aggressor from violating Lebanese territories with sophisticated U.S. aircraft.

[Question] Following the failure of the U.S. envoy's mission in Syria, do you think that war will break out?

[Answer] The war is about to break out; we must expect this. Whatever are the results, steadfastness is the only choice we have regardless of the cost.

'ARAFAT LEAVES FOR LIBYA, TUNISIA, ALGERIA

NC140733 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has intensified his efforts and moves to confront the grave situation in Lebanon, particularly in the south, in light of the Israeli preparations and threats to launch a major offensive against the Palestinian revolution. Within this framework Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar has left for the Arab Maghreb on a tour of Libya, Tunisia and Algeria.

The Palestinian efforts and moves are focused on establishing a unified Arab stand to confront the imperialist-Zionist challenge which is using the missile crisis as a pretext to deal a heavy blow to the military presence of the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon and to occupy Lebanese territory. The most important results of the large-scale Palestinian moves have been the statement by Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi yesterday to the effect that Iraq will not stand with its hands folded, but will fight if Israel attacks Syria.

It has been learned that the Palestinian move is aimed at convening an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Kuwait or Riyadh to adopt measures that will confront the imminent Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution.

Informed sources have stated that the talks Brother Abu 'Ammar has held with officials in Damascus, Baghdad, Riyadh and a number of the Gulf capitals as well as the message Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan conveyed to King Husayn of Jordan have been positive and achieved tangible results regarding the convening of Arab foreign ministers meeting and clearing the Arab air.

'ARAFAT SEEKS ARAB UNITY; GULF WAR MUST END

JN121807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1548 GMT 12 May 81

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] The PLO, through its leader, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], is exerting intensive efforts on the Arab level. These efforts began with the official visit Brother Abu 'Ammar paid to Iraq yesterday following his successful tour of the Gulf 1 week ago. During this visit the brother leader had prepared for the convening of an Arab conference at foreign ministerial level that will adopt resolutions and take measures and stands to reply to the repeated Zionist threats against the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese nationalist forces and Syria. These threats could not have been made by the Zionist leaders unless they had obtained a green light from the United States. This was made evident by the New York TIMES report 2 days ago on the exchange of letters between Begin and Reagan, which showed clearly the green light given to Israel to carry out an aggression against Lebanon at the appropriate time.

We hope that the PLO's efforts on the Arab level to reunite the various parts of the Arab body and to seek quick means to create a solid Arab wall for facing the present and future confrontations will not result merely in an Arab meeting concerned with a specific crisis and restricted to a certain time but will constitute a first step on the road to building an entrenched Arab stand centered on the major topic of interest to the future of our entire Arab nation: the issue of the Arab-Zionist dispute which extends from Palestine to Syria and passes through Lebanon.

The successful efforts the PLO has exerted and is still exerting on the Arab level are paralleled by efforts of equal importance, those of the nonaligned committee to end the Iraqi-Iranian war because Iraq and Iran constitute the rich strategic depth on the map of the Arab-Zionist dispute. That is why it is necessary to find a solution to the war between the brothers to provide a political, military and economic impetus to the major dispute in this region, the Arab-Zionist dispute.

The Zionist enemy has renewed his threats to liquidate the Palestinian people and is issuing one warning after another to fraternal Syria to make it remove the needed security coverage from its legitimate forces in Lebanon, represented by the missiles. Israel says that for this purpose it will wage a war against the Palestinians, their allies and the Syrians and that this war will be the most violent war it has waged in view of the scope of strategic weapons that will be used.

To face this, the Arabs have no other alternative but to reassess their calculations. The battle will be a pan-Arab one from all its aspects, and the Arabs have no other choice but to wage it and take preparations to win it. It is not true that we can suffer many defeats. The equation must be reversed: We need many victories for this nation and its future.

LEBANON CRISIS CALLED CHANCE FOR RESTORING UNITY

JN142036 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1800 GMT 14 May 81

[Unattributed commenta ·]

[Text] Political observers are unanimous that the current so-called missile crisis is one of the most dangerous crises to face the Arab nation since the signing of the treasonous Camp David accords. The Israeli threats to deal Syria a military blow by striking the Arab Deterrent Forces, and Begin's threat to wipe out the Palestinians in Lebanon constitute part of the Zionist-U.S. plan, namely, to break up the Arab Steadfastness Front facing the capitulatory plots and projects which Washington is endeavoring to impose on the region.

When the so-called missile crisis began, Israel sounded very confident. Terrorist Begin went so far as to draw up red lines in northern Lebanon and on the Sannin mountains and to claim that these mountains lie within Israel's circle of security. Begin could not have issued such threats or attempted to impose such terms if he had not made careful calculations in which he analyzed the current Arab position and witnessed the state of disunity and disarray in Arab ranks. He believed then that this was his historic opportunity to impose his peace on Arab rejectionists after having imposed it on the As-Sadat regime through Washington's offices. Nevertheless, he discovered that he had miscalculated when he found that Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement had accepted the challenges with strength and confidence. The enemy prime minister has again made a mistake like those that the various U.S. administrations have been and are still making, namely, the attempt to ignore the effective revolutionary and political Palestinian force in the Arab region. The Palestinian presence has always maintained the central position in any Arab action, in terms of its ability to move freely and effectively on the interconnected and numerous Arab lines when the need arose for the creation of a unified Arab stand to prepare for the fateful battle with the fateful enemy of the Arab nation.

The crisis created by Begin's reckless policy has thereby given the Palestinian revolution an historic opportunity to bring back Arab solidarity and to open the door for unified Arab action to tackle the most important problem, that with the Zionist enemy, and disregard all secondary problems. It is also an opportunity for many Arab regimes to return to serious pan-Arab action after it has been made clear that to renounce this unified action and to engage in side battles will undoubtedly threaten not only this state or that people but the entire Arab nation.

The Israeli security lines which have crept to northern Lebanon and the Sannin mountains are slated to reach the Arab Gulf, North Africa and every spot in the Arab homeland in which there is U.S. political, strategic or oil interest. Hence the importance of the Palestinian moves in the Arab arena. As we have just said, the Arab regimes have the chance to seize such opportunities and to bless them in everyone's national and pan-Arab interest. The first results of the Palestinian moves have given clear and positive indications that the Arab states have agreed to hold an Arab foreign ministers conference. The first item on the agenda will be the Arab confrontation of the Zionist military escalation through comprehensive Arab military preparations.

It must be stressed that the steadfastness of the joint forces in southern Lebanon was able to create a nucleus for a Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist steadfastness front as a prelude to a larger Arab steadfastness front which will save the Arab nation's dignity and raise its head among world peoples--a dignity which has been soiled by the traitor, Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. The enemy's threats and aggression against Lebanon must not pass without an Arab answer to show Begin and others that Arab sovereignty, the Arab skies and the Arab land is not a free-for-all that can be overrun by the imperialists and Zionists. The pan-Arab national security, which is one and the same for all the Arabs, must always be a supreme Arab interest and must be imposed by stopping the Zionist aggression and harnessing the Zionist military machine aided by the Pentagon weapons.

CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CABLES SUPPORT TO 'ARAFAT

JN141550 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received a solidarity cable from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba on the occasion of 15 May, the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine. The cable says:

On the passing of another year of the 15 May anniversary, our party sends you a warm message of solidarity with your just cause. The dispersal of the Palestinian people from their land is one of the most criminal deeds perpetrated by Zionism, instigated by imperialism and reaction. It is a black stain on the history of humanity.

The Cuban people strongly support the cause of the Palestinian people--under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative--and their right to regain their land and establish their independent national state.

CHATTI ENDS IRAN, IRAQ VISITS; COMMENTS ON TALKS

LD142002 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Jidda, 14 May (SPA)--Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, returned to Jidda today from Tehran at the end of a tour of Iraq and Iran lasting several days and held within the framework of the good offices committee's efforts to solve the conflict between the two warring countries.

Chatti, in an arrival statement to SPA, said that the Islamic good offices committee mission, led by Bangladesh President Ziaul Rahman, met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and held important talks covering the additional plan which was submitted to both countries on 1 and 2 April.

Chatti described the mission's discussions in both countries as constructive and as being held in an atmosphere of confidence in the efforts of the good offices committee.

Chatti said that the results of these talks will be conveyed to Guinea President Sekou Toure in his capacity as chairman of the good offices committee, who in turn will hold contacts with the other members of the committee who may convene a new meeting within the next few days.

KUWAIT

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER MITTERRAND MIDEAST STAND

LD141442 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 May 81 p 1

["Political editor" report]

[Excerpt] In addition to the Arab states' anxiety over the well-known attitude of French President-elect Francois Mitterrand on the Palestinian question--an open pro-Israeli attitude--information reaching Gulf administrations indicates that Mitterrand has a long-standing personal, friendly relationship with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. Despite the fact that Gulf circles prefer to attach little importance to this information, on the basis that this is an old personal relationship which has no bearing on France's policy, it nevertheless does not lessen the extent of the Gulf circles' anxiety. Mitterrand has threatened to alter the old French agreement with Iraq on nuclear consignments. Mitterrand's attitudes on a number of issues related to the Gulf's oil, security and armament could take more effort and time to rectify than is necessary.

YAR

PRESIDENT VIEWS TIES WITH USSR, OTHER GULF ISSUES

GF150755 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 13 May 81 p 9

[Brahim al-Bashmi interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in San'a'--no date given]

[Excerpt] Question: Mr President, you are about to visit the Soviet Union. What is your view of YAR-Soviet relations?

Answer: Yemeni-Soviet relations are old and established. They were among the first Arab-Soviet relations. These relations are developing and are based on the principle of mutual respect and joint cooperation between the Yemeni people and the peoples of the Soviet Union and serve the principle of peaceful coexistence and the development of mankind.

Question: Does this visit, together with the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit, constitute a change in the relations countries of the Arabian Peninsula and Arabian Gulf have with the Soviet Union?

Answer: I do not think so. For our part, we seek the development of technical and economic relations between our country and the Soviet Union. This does not mean that any change has occurred in our principled and consistent foreign policy that is based on a firm commitment to the principle of positive neutrality and nonalignment and the rejection of pacts, blocs and all forms of foreign intervention. In my answer to your first question I said our relations with the Soviet Union are not new. Relations have existed for 51 years. We want our relations with all countries to protect and strengthen higher Yemeni interests and to safeguard our distinctive position in international relations.

Question: What are the YAR's views on Brezhnev's initiative to neutralize the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. In your opinion, how can the region be kept free of international conflicts?

Answer: Regrettably, we do not pay attention to the issues that concern us unless others point them out to us. We pointed out and stressed this matter before President Brezhnev. We in the YAR had and still have our own views on the security of the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, and the Soviet president's initiative follows the same line we had stressed.

We have repeatedly called for keeping these areas free of all forms of international conflict and ambitions, and consequently free of all forms of foreign military presence in whatever size or shape. We have categorically declared that the peoples of the region will protect its peace and security. This is because intervention by any other party will only mean destruction and will provide pretexts for destroying the region and setting it ablaze with the fires of international conflict. This is the basis of our view to keep the area free of international conflicts and foreign influence.

Question: When the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council was announced some circles expressed annoyance over the YAR's exclusion from the council. What is the YAR's view of this step, and do you have any specific proposals that would give Yemen a position in this council?

Answer: We are not annoyed by the YAR's exclusion from the Gulf Cooperation Council. We are linked to many of the Arab Gulf countries through bilateral cooperation and coordination councils. As for the Gulf Cooperation Council, it still is a subject of study. (We do not want the information media to create a furor over it.)

Question: What is your view on the PDRY's proposal to convene a summit conference of the countries of the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea? Why has there been no agreement on such a conference?

Answer: Such a conference is undoubtedly important in the present circumstances of the region in particular and the Arab nation in general. It remains a possibility, but we hope it will not merely be a publicity stunt.

Question: There is a national dialogue taking place between the government and various Yemeni sides to establish equal national relations that seek to develop Yemen. How do you define a reconciliation in the northern part of Yemen that would be compatible with present realities?

Answer: A firm commitment to be truly loyal to Yemen--its land, people and revolution--purging all foreign affiliations and ties that cause one to sink in the mud of agentry and national treason.

Question: There are those who say that if North and South Yemen are united through a single political decision and a united foreign policy, the course of events in the area will improve. Do you believe the measures to achieve unity are sufficient, particularly as we hear that there are forces opposing such unity? Is it an appropriate time to know the truth about the development taking place on the road to unity?

Answer: There is no doubt that the achievement of Yemeni unity is an important part of the strength of our region and will eliminate one of its weaknesses. Moreover, in our view, Yemeni unity is a necessary advanced step toward the achievement of Arab unity and increasing the effectiveness of Arab solidarity. We believe the unionist steps that have been taken through agreement and understanding with our brothers in the southern part of Yemen do not fulfill all our aspirations--that is, they are insufficient and are basic and important bricks in the great unionist structure. This makes us fully assured that our unionist steps will continue at present, and the achievement of unity will be safeguarded in the future--a unity founded on sound and firm bases that insure its strength and continuity. There are no foreign forces opposed to the establishment of Yemeni unity.

'ALI, OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR COMING STERNER VISIT

JN141837 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)--Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, today met with Maj Gen Muhsin Hamdi and Minister Plenipotentiary Fawzi [surname indistinct] and reviewed with them the points of agreement reached during the tripartite military conference in Washington among Egypt, the United States and Israel. A review was also made of the points of disagreement which still exist and which require further discussion as a prelude to the visit of Michael Sterner, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, who will visit Egypt the day after tomorrow, Saturday.

The Egyptian side to the negotiations will hold an expanded meeting on Saturday under Dr Usamah al-Baz, first foreign under secretary. It will be attended by Maj Gen Muhsin al-Hamdi and the Foreign Ministry's experts and legal conselors.

Michael Sterner will meet with Dr Usamah al-Baz on the subject of a multinational force. He will also be received by President as-Sadat on Sunday. Kamal Hasan 'Ali will also meet with the U.S. official for talks preliminary to the Mena House talks. He will leave for Israel on the same day for similar talks as a prelude to the Mena House meetings.

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFED BY ENVOY TO ISRAEL

JN141750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)--Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv Sa'id Murtada. Following the meeting Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that the Egyptian ambassador presented a full review of the situation in the region, particularly in Lebanon. The review also dealt with relations between Egypt and Israel, the achievements thus far and cooperation between the two countries in accordance with the peace agreement.

LEADERS OF ABORTIVE 1971 COUP REPORTED RELEASED

NC141129 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (AFP)--Former Egyptian Vice-President 'Ali Sabri was today freed from jail where he had been serving a life sentence for his party in a May 13 1971 abortive coup against President Anwar as-Sadat, it was announced here. Mr Sabri was arrested as ringleader of the plot along with 90 other "pro-Soviet" conspirators. Today--10 years later--all the so-called "May 13 conspirators" have now been released.

A special military court sentenced Mr Sabri and three other defendants to death, but this was later remitted to hard labour for life. These three other prisoners were also freed today with Mr Sabri. The three are former Minister of Presidential Affairs Sami Sharaf, former Information Minister Muhammad Fayiq, and Farid 'Abd al-Karim, a regional organizer of the 'Abd An-Nasir-era sole political party.

Observers here saw Mr as-Sadat's clemency measure as a gesture to turn the page for good on a decade-old episode that allowed him final victory over the supporters of his predecessor, President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, who died one year before the attempted coup.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH ITALY--Rome, 14 May (MENA)--A protocol of technical, economic and trade cooperation was signed here today between Egypt and Italy. The protocol stipulates that the Italian Governemnt provide Egypt with loans totalling $100 million to be used in Egyptian development projects and a grant of $30 million to be used in a number of other projects. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 May 81 JN]

HAMMADI ON U.S. TIES, IRAN WAR, ARAB SOLIDARITY

LD141135 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 81 p 3

[Interview given to Muhammad Ma'Ruf Ash-Shibani by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi in Baghdad--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Iraq recently received a U.S. official envoy, namely Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper. Certain quarters interpreted this step as indicating that the air has been cleared for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Washington. How true is this interpretation?

[Answer] In the first place the question of resuming diplomatic relations was not discussed at this meeting. For a long time the Americans have been wanting to restore diplomatic relations and we are aware of their desire. But we have made it clear to them that our previous stand regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations, which we have expressed on several occasions before, is still the same. I told the American envoy that we broke relations for known reasons, all of which concern the Arab-Israeli conflict. These reasons still exist, and should a substantial change take place in the U.S. attitude we for our part will be ready to reconsider our stand. Of course, I also told the American envoy that we do not imagine that the break in relations between the two countries is a normal thing, and we cannot imagine that it will last forever. It is a situation that resulted from certain conditions and it is dependent on those conditions.

Question] Does this mean that you are expecting a political change by President Reagan's administration?

[Answer] This question can be answered in two ways. The theoretical, deductive way leads to a negative answer. First, it is a known fact that the big powers do not change their policies substantially in a rapid manner. Second, the United States has not positively changed its attitude to the Palestine problem in many years. Third, the U.S. pro-Israeli policy has its reasons and these reasons still exist. It can be added here that the background of the present administration, judging by its statements before and since the election, gives no such indication.

Therefore, by deduction we do not expect any important changes in the U.S. attitude. But we also say that since it is a new administration we must wait and see.

They say: We have not yet studied the situation in the Middle East thoroughly. They also say: It would be wise to wait for the outcome of the Israeli election. We say: Very well, we will also wait and will give you the chance to study the Middle East situation thoroughly. They say: It would be wise to wait for the outcome of the Israeli election. We also say: Very well, since the Israeli election is not far away we will also wait and see. But if we are asked: Do you have the impression that there will be an important change, we say that according to what we know and to logical deduction our answer is "no."

[Question] What was the new development that made you receive the State Department envoy?

[Answer] There is nothing new. And this is not the first time it has happened. We did not tell them in the past that we would receive or meet an American envoy. I met former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie at the United Nations. American delegates also came to Iraq and we received them.

[Question] Does this mean leaving the door open to political dialogue between you and the United States?

[Answer] There is no dialogue between us. The point is that, every time an American official has asked for a meeting, generally and up to now we have accepted such a meeting. We always tell them: If you want a meeting you are welcome, we will meet with you and listen to what you have to say. We have no demands and no agenda to put to the United States. When we agree to meet you, we are only ready to listen to you. Therefore it is difficult to say that there is dialogue. Dialogue means that each party has something to say to the other. Our views are clear and our demands are clear. We have no major problem with the United States except the Palestine problem. They know our views. In fact, technically there is no dialogue. There is listening. They say things, we discuss those things with them and we answer them. But we have nothing to submit to the United States.

[Question] Certain analysts have drawn the conclusion that the reason behind your receiving an American envoy, which they described as "American-Iraqi flirtation," is that your government is annoyed with the Soviet Union's attitude toward Iraq in the Iraq-Iran war.

[Answer] No, that is not true. These are some of the conclusions drawn in the course of analysis by the media. This is a fabricated conclusion. I said that I met the former secretary of state in New York in September, and I previously met Henry Kissinger during the North-South dialogue in Paris. Among the Americans who visited us was also Senator Kennedy, whom I met here in Baghdad.

[Question] What price is Iraq demanding for the resumption of relations with the United States? Is it arms? Or is it U.S. neutrality in your war with Iran? Or is it both, and other things as well?

[Answer] We have said that the main issue is that the United States should make a substantial change in its attitude on the Palestine problem and the problem of the Middle East.

[Question] The recent arms deal between Iraq and Egypt has also raised several questions. Was Iraq in such great need of those arms there was no other way to buy them than from the Egyptian Government?

[Answer] We are not in great need. The president said some time ago: We buy arms from any quarter. We buy arms for our needs now and in the future. We buy it from all quarters on a commercial basis, except from the Zionist entity. The arms purchase from Egypt was a commercial deal and it is quite wrong to interpret it differently. We are in a state of war, in which calculations are made for every contingency.

[Question] Does this mean that there is a possibility of other arms consignments from Egypt?

[Answer] I am not aware of our needs at present and I do not know if Egypt has arms. We are talking only about what has happened.

[Question] Could you not purchase the same arms from states other than Egypt, such as the states of East Europe or India or any other country?

[Answer] I have said that we buy arms from any side which wishes to sell on a commercial basis. If we need arms, we buy them from whoever expresses a wish or is prepared to sell.

[Question] Do you not regard this arms deal as constituting a violation of the Baghdad summit conference resolutions to boycott the Egyptian regime and halt economic aid to it. The prince paid for the arms is undoubtedly considered income for the As-Sadat regime's treasury.

[Answer] No. This question is one of acquiring arms for self-defense. We do boycott the Egyptian regime. We are the most meticulous in applying the Baghdad summit resolution absolutely.

[Question] A while ago you spoke about your government's stance and said that Iraq is prepared to buy arms from any state in the world except Israel and that on this basis the arms deal with Egypt took place. Let us suppose that the same circumstances arise and the selling state is Syria and not Egypt: Will Iraq agree to purchase arms from Syria which, in any event, is not Israel?

[Answer] We are not discussing options or the future, especially in matters of armament. These are security matters, our discussion of what has happened is within the limit of our interest, while talking about what has not happened or about possibilities is not. We do not discuss the question of armament in such detail.

[Question] Then you do not believe that agreeing to purchase arms from the Syrian regime is at all unlikely?

[Answer] I have not said that it is likely or unlikely, but that we do not go that far in discussing the subject of arms. We do not discuss everything that has happened except according to interest, let alone discuss what has not happened.

[Question] Your war in Iran has lasted longer than was expected. Does it need a political or a military decision to end it?

[Answer] There is no political or military decision. When a country enters a war all the possibilities must be calculated. We will act as we deem fit at the appropriate time. When we see that we should do something militarily we will do it, when we find that the conditions are suitable from all aspects. We cannot say what we will do, either politically or militarily, and we only declare that we have already declared, namely that we approve peace, cease-fire and negotiations.

[Question] Certain reports say that Iraq is probably waiting for Khomeyni to die or for Tehran regime to fall so that it can decide the battle. Is this true?

[Answer] This is a matter that concerns Iran, it concerns them. We do not rely on these matters. If that were true, we would not have entered war. The regime could fall by itself. Life is in the hands of God. We entered this war after we found that there was no other means to avert military danger and confront Iranian aggression. The steps that we have taken are in order to seek a radical solution to the problem. We do not rely on the internal situation in Iran. That is up to them.

[Question] Unconfirmed agency reports recently said that Iraq is implicitly annoyed by the establishment of the "Gulf Arab States Cooperation Council." Would you explain your real attitude toward this council?

[Answer] We have declared Iraq's stand on several occasions and there is no need to repeat it. We said that we support any step for rapprochement among any group of Arab countries for the sake of solidarity and progress toward unity. We have said this in many unequivocal statements.

[Question] Do you, therefore, consider the establishment of the council a step in that direction?

[Answer] The council, as was declared, is a step toward solidarity between the Arab states bordering the Gulf. We hope that it will be a serious step toward rapprochement between the Arab Gulf countries. Before the council was established we called for greater coordination, rapprochement and solidarity between the countries bordering the Gulf in order to confront danger.

[Question] Do you intend to establish some sort of coordination and cooperation between Iraq and the council?

[Answer] This depends on the council. It also depends on conditions. We are waiting for the council to come into being. Iraq is a member of the Arab League and all the council states are members of the Arab League. Almost daily we have contacts and debates.

[Question] Certain reports from Paris have said that Kuwait will probably raise the idea of opening the door to Iraq's membership of the council at the coming council meeting.

[Answer] We know nothing about this subject. These are press reports about which you can ask Kuwait.

[Question] Supposing such a proposal was made, will Iraq be ready to join the council?

[Answer] This is another question. So far we have not been asked to join, nor for our part have we asked or discussed this matter.

[Question] Do you think that the difference in character between the Iraqi regime and the regimes of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council could be an obstacle to Iraq's joining it?

[Answer] We have always said that the differences between Arab regimes should not prevent Arab rapprochement and solidarity and forging ahead toward Arab unity.

[Question] Should Iraq be asked to join the council, do you see any hindrance to Iraq's acceptance?

[Answer] We cannot talk about hypothetical things. Everything depends on time and conditions. It also depends on the council and how it develops. Will it lead to the achievement of the objectives for which it has been created? Will it succeed? Will it meet difficulties, and so on. We prefer to talk about nonhypothetical things.

[Question] How is your nuclear program progressing at present, in the conditions of war and in view of the continuing efforts by some quarters hostile to Iraq to impede it?

[Answer] We do not discuss this subject in detail and do not give information from which the enemy might benefit. But certainly this modest beginning by Iraq on acquiring nuclear technical know-how and on achieving progress and benefit from today's world science--even this the Israeli enemy is resisting viciously and strongly. This is despite the fact that it is established that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, as it and the whole world admit. But because the enemy wants to keep the Arab countries backward, he claims that Iraq is seeking to manufacture nuclear weapons, so as to incite the world against the Arab countries. The enemy is aware that this program is scientific and peaceful. Our program is progressing as it should, and we will not allow the enemy to keep us precluded from the most important scientific development to date.

[Question] The many attempts that have been made to mediate in order to end the war between you and Iran have failed. What proposals can Iraq put forward to improve the chances of the political solution succeeding, and do you expect a new mediation?

[Answer] All the committees are expected to arrive shortly. Their efforts have not stopped, and that applies to the nonaligned committee, the Islamic Conference Organization committee and the UN secretary general's envoy. During the coming days these three parties will make a new mediation tour.

[Question] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman is expected to visit Tehran and Baghdad in a new mediation tour on behalf of the Islamic Conference Organization. What will you tell him, and do you have any new ideas?

[Answer] It was understood that President Ziaur Rahman himself would come, but now I understand that only the committee will come. This is a new development. But as to what I will tell him, or the nonaligned committee, or the UN representative, it will not differ from what we have said in the past and have repeated so often. We have nothing new.

[Question] Do you accept the 1975 Algiers agreement as the basis for solving the dispute and ending the war?

[Answer] Absolutely not, and in no way whatever. In the first place that agreement was abrogated. It was abrogated by Iran both in word and in deed. They abrogated it through their official statements. The essential elements of the agreement are three, two of which concern Iraq and one, Iran, which did not abide by the two provisions concerning Iraq, namely withdrawal from the territories it occupied during the shah's rule, and noninterference in the internal affairs of Iraq, including the question of the rebellion in northern Iraq.

[Question] So what are the terms for ending the war with Iran?

[Answer] They are the same as we have stated before. In our view they are not terms as such. The fact is that Iraq's land borders as fixed in the previous agreements between the two countries must be legally recognized and that Iraq must have total sovereignty over the entire Shatt al-'Arab. Iran must withdraw from the three Arab islands and stop interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and the Arab countries bordering the Gulf.

[Question] Is there any coordination between your stand and the UAE stand concerning the demand to restore the three islands?

[Answer] We have had several contacts with the UAE and our views are in agreement. The UAE has taken several steps. It has sent memos to the Security Council claiming its right to those islands. We are always consulting one another.

[Question] Do you approve the arming of citizens in Arabistan [Khuzestan] so as to stand against the Iranian regime's forces?

[Answer] We have not yet made a political decision regarding Arabistan, which was an Arab area up to 1925. The decision is political: Will it remain part of Iran or will it secede?

We have not yet made such a decision, but we are in a state of war and must take all measures to weaken the enemy. If the citizens of Arabistan, who are banned from speaking Arabic and whom the regimes of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and Khomeyni have persecuted, want arms in order to protect themselves, is it conceivable that we will withhold arms from them? Of course not.

[Question] It appears that your war with Iran has revealed to you who is your enemy and who is your friend. For example, the states which stood alongside you are the states which have monarchical regimes and and which until recently were described as "reactionary," whereas certain regimes which were described as "progressive" stood against you. Are you thinking of reconsidering your foreign relations in such a way as to base your future relations with any state on the basis of that state's stance on your war with Iran?

[Answer] We are defending borders and territories in the Arab homeland. We are sure that the great majority of the people of the Arab homeland in all the Arab countries are with us--the overwhelming majority. In Syria, Libya and Algeria, the majority of the people are with Iraq. Some Arab governments--to be precise, two governments, the Libyan Government and the Syrian Government--have stood against Iraq, not because they are progressive or reactionary but for reasons connected with the bilateral relations between Iraq and each of these two regimes. We are not in disagreement with the Syrian regime, but if Israel attacked Syria or a war broke out, would we stand idly by? No. Impossible. We would fight alongside Syria irrespective of our relations with its regime.

[Question] What do you blame the PLO for?

[Answer] Naturally, some blame lies with the PLO. We are aware of their position and conditions, but the truth must be told. The PLO is under the influence of the Syrian regime. The reasons for this are partly geographical, for which the PLO cannot be blamed, and partly things for which the blame lies with the PLO. We believe that the PLO must be more independent so as to serve the cause.

[Question] Briefly, then, you intend to consider your foreign relations in the light of each country's attitude to your war with Iran?

[Answer] Naturally. That is definitely so. The war and everyone's attitude toward it are among the criteria which will determine our relations not only on the Arab level but also on the international level, as well as on the Islamic and all other levels.

I would like to add something in relation to the PLO. The PLO has not stood against Iraq, but its support for Iraq and its stand could have been stronger. In reality, the PLO understands Iraq's position and adopts the proper Arab stand toward it. But it has not been voicing and expressing this stand as much as it should in its daily political activities. This is due to influences on its for geographical reasons, for which the PLO cannot be blamed, and for other reasons for which the blame lies with the PLO, as I have siad. However, the PLO is definitely aware of Iraq's position, supports it and understands the pan-Arab aspect of what Iraq is doing.

[Question] Is the time not appropriate for resolving the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border problem in the light of the atmosphere of good relations among the Gulf states?

[Answer] This is an old issue. We are in a state of war at present and this demands solidarity. The issue between Iraq and Kuwait is shelved at present but it will be resolved eventually. It is not a hot issue and it is not of interest, nor is it our intention to raise this matter now or talk about it. The day will come when this issue will be resolved fraternally and in a manner satisfactory to both Iraq and Kuwait.

[Question] There has been much talk about the so-called European initiative. How does Iraq view this initiative, and do you think that it is of interest to pin hopes on it?

[Answer] We have two observations on this question. The first observation is that the content of this initiative, as we see it and according to what we know about it so far, appears to be a middle-of-the-road stand between Camp David and the Baghdad summit resolutions. For this reason, we cannot agree to any solution that is less than the Baghdad summit resolutions. The second observation is that we do not see how Europe can achieve this compromise if it uses the moral aspect alone. Israeli policy is a policy based on balance of power. The United States is the greatest supporter of Israel. We do not see how Europe can implement even this stand, which is less than the Baghdad summit resolutions. However, the European initiative--that is, if we can call it an initiative--is a step in the right direction and indicates a positive development. But as far as substance and method are concerned, we do not see in it a possibility for a solution. However, if you ask me if its intentions are bad, I would say no; or if it is a step backward, I would say no; or if it is something negative, I would say no. If you ask me whether we are grateful and appreciate this development, I would say yes; or if we encourage it, I would say yes. We encourage it because it is a step forward.

[Question] Then you believe that the solution must come from the United States because it can put pressure on Israel?

[Answer] It is not true that the solution must come from America. A solution can be implemented only if it is forced on Israel. The state which can force Israel at present is the United States, of course.

[Question] In this you support As-Sadat's view that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards for a solution?

[Answer] No. As-Sadat means something else. How can America pressure Israel? As-Sadat chose the method of surrender. He goes and kisses the hand of the United States, opens Egypt to it and gives it bases. We say that we must put pressure on the United States.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 336

JN141719 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 81

[Communique No 336 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 14 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following are the results of our valiant armed forces' activities in the operational sectors last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Two observation posts and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Sare-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Six were killed and one stockpile of hardware was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.

C. An enemy personnel concentration was sighted in front of our positions in the Dezful region. It was pounded with various weapons and forced to flee, leaving behind 11 dead.
D. Our units pounded enemy personnel concentrations in the Shush region with various weapons and forced them to retreat after killing 26, wounding a large number and destroying 2 vehicles and 2 stockpiles of hardware. Our helicopters today raided enemy positions in the same region and destroyed two tanks, four armored personnel carriers and one stockpile of hardware. They also scored direct hits on an enemy personnel concentration before returning safely to their bases.
E. Our units pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing four and destroying one infantry position, two vehicles, four observation posts and three stockpiles of hardware.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 13 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles and two field guns were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 May 1981

AL-JUMHURIYAH COMMENTS ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI CRISIS

JN141049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA)--AL-JUMHURIYAH describes U.S. Envoy Philip Habib's tour of the area as an attempt to tighten the U.S. plan which is aimed at bringing closer the views of terrorist Begin and Hafiz al-Asad.

The paper says editorially that the tour is also aimed at preparing a new plot against the Arab masses, particularly our Palestinian people. It adds that the U.S. envoy, who was warmly received by Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus and who was given a warmer reception in occupied Palestine, is moving amid stern proposals to prompt the United States to use all its weight to drag Hafiz al-Asad's regime to the capitulatory settlement table.

The paper emphasizes that the U.S. envoy's tour of Syria and the Zionist entity comes within the context of priorities to bring the two sides' views closer and consequently to create a state of harmony and understanding so that the secondary contradictions will not obstruct the U.S. efforts from giving more gains to the Zionist enemy and from getting the Syrian regime out of the dilemma from which it is suffering on the international level.

The paper says that the issue of the Syrian heights and the enemy's attempts to swallow them have been finally dropped by Hafiz al-Asad. Al-Asad is no longer demanding these heights or working to regain them lest he anger his masters and also because he does not believe in regaining usurped Arab rights, particularly since his regime is the one which handed the Syrian land over to the enemy after receiving the price in advance. Part of this price is devoted to protecting the head of this regime.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the Al-Asad government's message to terrorist Begin--via the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus--that it is unwilling to wage war against the Zionist entity has unveiled the hidden intentions of Al-Asad's clique in the fabricated process which is aimed at transferring the capitulatory settlement from Camp David to Geneva or to any other place so long as circumstances are ripe and the international political atmosphere is ready, of course from the plot partners' viewpoints.

AL-WAZZAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR MEET ON HABIB MISSION

NC141333 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met at noon today with U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean and discussed with him the stages already covered by the U.S. Envoy Philip Habib's mission in the area. Prime Minister al-Wazzan was scheduled to meet with Habib at 2000 yesterday. However, the quick appointment which was made for him [Habib] to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad prevented such meeting. Habib asked the U.S. ambassador to visit the prime minister and brief him on his talks in the area.

AL-WAZZAN INTERVIEWED ON MISSILES, SITUATION

JN151018 Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May (QNA)--In statements published here today, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced that Israel is planning for a new aggression against Lebanon and the Arab region. He pointed out that the missile issue is a mere pretext used by Israel to pave the way for such an aggression, which would inevitably lead to a military eruption between Syria and Israel. Al-Wazzan added that the Syrian missiles were only installed in Lebanon following the attack by Israeli planes on Al-Biqa'. He affirmed that the Arab deterrent Forces [ADF] are legitimate forces which constitute an important factor inside the Lebanese arena.

In an interview with the paper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi today, Al-Wazzan called on all the Lebanese and the Arab states to adopt a firm stand on the Israeli attempts to erupt the situation, adding that we appeal to the world conscience to help Lebanon confront the Israeli aggression in such a way that Lebanon's unity, territory and the safety of its sons are safeguarded and so it can proceed toward national accord.

Al-Wazzan affirmed that the Lebanese crisis cannot be solved outside the Lebanese arena, adding that if the Lebanese issue should be internationalized for any reason, Lebanon would be transformed into a new Vietnam, which would not serve the interests of either Lebanon or the Arabs. He added that the possibility of moving toward national accord has been strengthened by the recent events in Zahlah, particularly now that the language of arms has failed and the experience of the past years has proved that weapons only result in destruction, not solutions.

SOVIET ENVOY MEETS WITH SARKIS, VIEWS SITUATION

Views on Peace Efforts

NC141310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] At B'abda Palace President Ilyas Sarkis today discussed the general situation in Lebanon and in the area with the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Aleksandr Soldatov. The meeting, which began at 1000, lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes.

After the meeting the Soviet ambassador said: We exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon. The Soviet ambassador denied that he conveyed a message from Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to President Sarkis. He said: We explained to the president of the republic the Soviet Union's position on the situation in Lebanon. The meeting was held only to exchange views.

Asked about the Soviet position on the events taking place in the area in light of the military escalation, the Soviet ambassador said: It is Israel which is escalating the situation in the area. The main reason for the aggravation of the situation in the area is the hostile policy which Israel is pursuing.

Asked whether he expects a diplomatic or a military solution to the situation in the area, the Soviet ambassador said: The Soviet Union is doing everything for a peaceful solution in the area.

Asked whether there is diplomatic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States to defuse the situation in Lebanon, he said: The Soviet Union is holding contacts with many states in the world, including the United States. Through these contacts we have explained and clarified the position as now expressed. We think that in view of its close relations with Israel, the United States must use its influence with Israel to stop the hostile actions against Lebanon.

Asked about the mission of U.S. Envoy Philip Habib in the area, he said: I want to point out that the Soviet Union maintains a firm stand for peace in the area and for exerting efforts to establish peace in the area. We and the U.S. administration hope to be guided by such starting points and such efforts. This also pertains to Mr Habib's mission. We are fully convinced that, like the Soviet people, the American people are also interested in peace, not only in certain areas but in the whole world.

Finally, the Soviet ambassador expressed the hope that peace will return to Lebanon.

Denial of Soviet Presence

NC141421 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis this morning held a 1-hour meeting with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and discussed the latest developments in Lebanon. After the meeting the Soviet ambassador denied that he conveyed a message from the Soviet officials to President Sarkis.

In reply to a question, he said: There are Soviet experts in Syria, in accordance with the Syrian-Soviet treaty. He affirmed that his country rejects the entry of Soviet experts into Lebanon, saying that Syrian-Soviet agreements refer to this matter. He added:

[Begin recording] As to the presence of Soviet military experts in Syria, they are in Syria in accordance with existing agreements between us and the Syrian Republic. Any allegations regarding the presence of Soviet soldiers in Lebanon are vicious and false reports, and we reject all these reports.

[Question] Now that you have admitted that there are Soviet experts in Syria, what is to prevent their entering into the Al-Biqa' valley as long as there is a Syrian Army in the Al-Biqa' valley and in Lebanon?

[Answer] The agreements between us and Syria prevent that, because under these agreements the experts are present in the country with which we have signed the agreement. This is a firm principle and we follow these principles.

'SOURCES' DENY RIYAQ AIRBASE UNDER SYRIAN CONTROL

NC141236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Responsible sources have affirmed that the Riyaq military airbase is under the control of the Lebanese Army and that no other forces share in this control.

Israel alleged yesterday that the Syrian forces are using the Riyaq military airbase to store missiles and deploy missile batteries within the airbase. Israel made this allegation to justify its aggressions against Lebanese civilian positions and areas. The sources added that not only are Israel's allegations incorrect, but no request whatsoever has been made for the use of the Riyaq airbase by the Syrian authorities.

The sources concluded: Israel has consistently been looking for excuses to justify its aggression against Lebanese territory.

KHADDAM INTERVIEWED ON MISSILES IN LEBANON

JN141922 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 14 May (SANA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that we have introduced missiles into Lebanon and a missile is a defensive weapon called air defense to prevent the Israeli aircraft from continuing aggression against the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon. In an interview with the London newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Khaddam added that these missiles were moved to Lebanon to form a cover protecting the ADF and will not be pulled out, neither under Israeli pressure nor under the pressure of any other circumstances. He said that the ADF have the right to use all means to confront any aggression to which they are exposed. He said: We will not yield, neither to the Israeli threat nor to Israeli extortion, because if we do so we will have relinquished the Arab nation's dignity, future and rights. Khaddam added that were we to accept the Israeli threat, this would mean that the control and decisionmaking in Lebanon would be Israel's. The Israeli control will then spread to all Arab spots. Menahem Begin will then pick up the phone and give his instructions to any Arab ruler if a positive response is made to this ultimatum. He stressed that when Israel tries to hit the missile positions in Al-Biqa', the Israeli planes will clash with the forces there, and this means that Israel will be held responsible for exploding the military situation in Lebanon.

Khaddam said: We believe that every Arab citizen is now standing beside Syria with eyes and hearts pinned to what is happening in the confrontation arena. We hope that no one will remain outside the arena of struggle because the Israeli objectives are not targeted against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance, but against the entire Arab existence. He said that the struggle is a pan-Arab struggle between the Arabs and Israel and ultimately this struggle is not confined to some Arabs opposing the Israeli enemy. He who participated in it will be an effective [word indistinct] in the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and the one who just looks on will be a negative force serving Israel and the United States.

Khaddam pointed out that the Lebanese state has the right to demand the exit of the ADF, but it has no right to demand the exit of a weapon belonging to the ADF. Moreover, the Lebanese state is not following this trend and will not do so.

In this respect Khaddam wondered if we have introduced a change in the situation by introducing a defensive weapon against the Israeli aircraft attacks. This is not considered a change in the situation. Besides, a missile is a defensive weapon and we have offensive weapons in Lebanon. We have the tank and field gun.

Khaddam explained: For years we have upheld the decision to repulse the Israeli planes in Lebanon. There have been scores of clashes between our planes and Israeli planes. He asserted that the decision to station missiles in Lebanon is a Syrian decision to protect our forces in Lebanon. The protection of our forces can take place only through a decision by us. This is a clear point. We have not looked for and will not look for a green light or a red light or a yellow light.

Khaddam said: In this regard, I would like to point out that the Soviet Union supports us firmly and clearly. We are grateful to the Soviet Union for its support at a time when others have remained silent. The silent ones are worse than enemies; a silent friend or brother is worse than an enemy. He added: The Soviet first deputy foreign minister's visit to Syria was for the purpose of exchanging viewpoints and holding consultations within the framework of the treaty concluded between the two countries.

Khaddam said: America wants to make some Arabs believe that the conflict in the region comes from the Soviet Union and not from Israel. America thinks it has only one friend in the region, Israel. Khaddam added: America should understand that the continuation of this policy will not only harm its interests but also the interests of those who want to befriend it.

On Menahem Begin's threats he said: When Begin carries out his threats, he will not find the missiles are toys and [words indistinct] hit while the fighters look on. He will meet resistance and fierce fighting. The United States should exert its efforts in Israel for Israel began the provocations. It is Israel which attacked the ADF and is daily committing acts of aggression in southern Lebanon against the Palestinians and the Lebanese.

Khaddam added: We received the U.S. envoy and clearly explained our viewpoint to him. He will go to Palestine to meet with the enemy leadership to discuss the matter and might then return to Damascus. The viewpoint I explained to him is precisely our declared viewpoint.

He added: If America cannot bring pressure to bear on Israel, which is fighting us with U.S. support, funds and arms, can one imagine that Syria, which is being subjected to Israeli aggression perpetrated with U.S. arms and support, would accept the U.S. pressure? As I have said, America should exert its efforts in one direction. He explained that the formula acceptable to Syria to quiet the situation and to avoid its deterioration is for Israel to stop its aggression and to halt its provocations of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. He said that Syria welcomes any Arab effort aimed at defending dignity, honor and territory. He stressed that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia or any Arab country is not neutral between us and Israel. I know very well that Saudi and Kuwaiti envoys came to Damascus supporting Syria's stand but never as mediators.

Khaddam went on to say that many people, we among them, do not want war to take place. But our decision is clear when war is imposed on us. There is no option except confrontation. We do not believe that there is any Arab who differs with us on this.

We said that Israel is now threatening Lebanon's existence through its efforts to obstruct the reconciliation process, its continued aggression against southern Lebanon and its threats to occupy it. We realize that there is no way to preserve Lebanon as a country except through achieving national accord, which must be a real national accord with no vanquisher or vanquished.

He said that the hitting of two Syrian helicopters was a message directed at the Lebanese Front to obstruct the accord process. Indeed, after this incident the parties of the Lebanese Front showed clear hardening, a fact which leaves no room for doubt that they are willing (?to submit) to the blackmail of this Israeli challenge. Khaddam went on to say that there are some Lebanese parties in the Lebanese Front who really want the accord. There are some parties in [word indistinct] in (?Lebanon) who really seek accord. Not all the Phalangists agree on the continuation of war, nor do all the persons in the front.

On the Kuwaiti initiative to reach Lebanese national accord, Khaddam said this is the concern of the Lebanese parties. We encourage all that the Lebanese parties agree on. Syria is not a party, but it is helpful with regard to what the parties agree on.

He said that the Phalangists' control over Zahlah does not threaten only Syria's security but Lebanon's as well, because the aim of the control is to establish actual division in Lebanon and then to link the Phalangist ghetto with Israel. This line extends from Zahlah to Jazzin.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam added: The Zionist campaign which claims that Syria is organizing a massacre against the Christians in Lebanon is aimed at continuing the tense situation.

He stressed Syria's rejection of the subject of internationalizing Lebanon because it means dividing Lebanon. The internationalization of Cyprus has led to its division. He pointed out that the so-called French initiative met with broad Lebanese, Arab and international resistance. He said that the Arab states committed to financing the ADF suddenly stopped this financing without making a decision in advance. This has to a large extent contributed to increasing tension in the Lebanese arena because it encouraged some Lebanese sides and gave them the impression that these Arab states oppose the ADF. He pointed out that Syria has not made contacts on this subject and that the ADF is financed by Syria. He added: Syria shoulders the burden of confronting Israel, and I say it is the only one shouldering the burden of confronting Israel. Syria and its people alone are shouldering the burden despite the economic situation in Syria. Khaddam went on to say: I believe that if our brothers had discussed this decision with us before adopting it, we would have reached a joint agreement more useful to Lebanon. The issue is not a material one; it is political, and the decisions adopted were wrong.

He said that at present there are in the region U.S.-Israeli efforts toward continuing the Camp David policy and imposing new links. There is also a confrontation of this policy.

He went on to say: The Europeans have not submitted an initiative. The Europeans came to us twice to gather facts. There was the Venice statement on which we had reservations. There is no European initiative, but there are European efforts. Khaddam stressed that any initiative, whether European or non-European, that is based on Camp David and linked with it, will not be discussed by us. In our opinion, he said, the principles of peace are clear and were agreed on by the Arabs at the Algiers, Rabat or Baghdad summit conferences. He added: Some European stands toward the Palestinian issue have developed and I can say that there are beginnings of a clearer vision of the current struggle in the region. This is positive and we welcome it.

Khaddam said: We have welcomed Leonid Brezhnev's initiative on the Middle East. We also welcome any world political movement that works for peace and is based on the principles unanimously accepted by the Arabs.

He said: We waged the 1973 war with the card of Arab solidarity. Now if this war is imposed on us, we will wage it with the card of Arab dignity.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE POLITICAL STATEMENT

JN142110 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] The joint pan-Arab meeting of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, pan-Arab popular and vocational organizations and armed liberation movements in the Arab homeland ended this evening and issued a political statement, which said:

Proceeding from deep faith in our Arab nation and its role in humanity; out of a determination to enable this great nation to confront the dangers threatening its existence, rights and strategic rights; in implementation of the resolutions of the first, extraordinary and second Arab People's Conference; in light of the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary onslaught; and in light of the escalation of the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese people and steadfast Syria a joint pan-Arab meeting was held in Damascus 12-14 May on the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine on 15 May 1948, attended by the members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, pan-Arab popular and vocational organizations and armed liberation movements in the Arab homeland.

The explosive military and political situation in the Arab region was discussed to confront the Zionist enemy's increasing arrogance and the escalating vicious imperialist onslaught after surrender was imposed on the ruling regime in Egypt, As-Sadat's treason and the establishment of military bases in Egypt and the region.

The Zionist enemy, which is occupying the border strip in southern Lebanon, is threatening to overrun all of southern Lebanon and impose its hegemony and control over Lebanon. It is brazenly demanding the withdrawal of the defensive missiles of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Al-Biqa' in central Lebanon and threatening steadfast Syria. While expanding its aggression, this Zionist enemy is insolently asking Syria not to repulse the expansion of its aggression. The participants in the conference paused at the gravity of the situation and its blatant threat to the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the Lebanese National Movement, threatening the existence of the entire Arab nation.

Since regional trends and programs have failed to confront the fateful challenges, this nation has nothing left but its unity, pan-Arabism, the will of its popular masses and its free individual, who cannot relinquish his nation's destiny. Therefore, this strategic asset--the will of the Arab individual and its investment in a revolutionary trend and pan-Arab perspective--was carefully studied by the participants in this important pan-Arab meeting at a time when Lebanon's villages are being destroyed and the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and Arab Syria are being threatened with receiving a Zionist military blow at any moment.

The joint pan-Arab meeting asserted its solidarity with our Palestinian people in the occupied land and with their heroic struggle against the Zionist enemy to foil the Camp David accords and the autonomy plot, while adhering to their inalienable national rights and rallying round the P.O.

The conferees reached important decisions which will be announced to Arab public opinion later in an appropriate manner:

I. In the political field: The meeting will issue a political report that will analyze the situation and present a specific explanation and perspective regarding issues raised by the Arab reality. At this point we specify the most important points:

A. Pan-Arab commitment to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught and support Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in confronting the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy.
B. Proclaiming the decision to volunteer for the holy war for the liberation of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and taking practical measures to implement this through a pan-Arab method and instrument.
C. Taking a decision to begin the implementation of deterrent measures to strike against U.S. imperialist economic and military interests in retaliation for the imperialist aggression and its bias toward the Zionist enemy.
D. Passing death sentences on imperialist and Zionist traitors and agents who oppose the Arab nation's objectives and are allied with its enemies.

II. In the organizational field:

A. Several organization decisions were taken which infuse young blood into the edifices of the Arab People's Conference and which specify and form the Permanent Secretariat, entrusting their tasks to pan-Arab militant leaders.
B. Beginning the popular struggle fund campaign to bolster popular pan-Arab struggle.

III. In the popular pan-Arab organizations:

A. A specific concept was approved to seek to overcome the difficulties faced by these organizations to enable them to carry out their important pan-Arab role.
B. Agreement was reached on holding a conference of the Arab popular and vocational organizations as soon as possible.
C. Agreement was reached on calling on the pan-Arab popular and vocational organizations to convene their conference or central councils in emergency sessions so as to be able to shoulder their responsibilities in these dangerous circumstances.
D. Calling on the Coordination Council of the Arab People's Conference and the popular organizations to convene at the end of June 1981.

In these dangerous circumstances, the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, the pan-Arab popular and vocational organizations and the armed liberation movements appeal to the masses of our Arab nation: The hour of crucial decisiveness has arrived. The decision to confront should be imposed on our enemies and not be imposed upon us. We are confident that our nation's pan-Arab will shall triumph and that the decision to volunteer for the holy war for the liberation of Palestine will be a serious pan-Arab event that will change the balance of forces, for the will of the peoples is stronger and invincible. The decision to repulse the U.S. imperialist interests in the Arab homeland and the traitors and agents, enemies of the Arab nation, will bring about a qualitative step forward in the conflict that will inevitably end in the victory of our Arab nation and its forces and pan-Arab progressive and patriotic organizations.

The participants in the pan-Arab meeting addressed a call to the member states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to convene an emergency front meeting to endorse the decision to confront the imperialist-Zionist enemy, in light of the current circumstances, and to have the honor of fighting in defense of the Arab nation's existence and rights.

DAMASCUS REITERATES IMMUTABLE STAND ON LEBANON

JN141440 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hours after the phone call between President Sarkis and Al-Asad last night, during which President Sarkis affirmed that Lebanon supports Syria in confronting the current challenges, Israel resumed its intensive and provocative air activity in Lebanese airspace. In doing so, Israel is under the illusion that the resumption of its aggressive policy will achieve for it military, political and geographical gains in Lebanon. Syria, however, has declared that Lebanon's security is part of Syrian security. Thus, when Syria confronts the Israeli enemy, it defends its own (?security) as well as that of Lebanon. Syria actually proved the seriousness of its decision to confront Israel when its air defenses downed another Israeli plane this morning, in addition to the Zionist reconnaissance plane downed by these defenses 2 days ago.

What does this mean? First, it means that when Syria confronts the Israeli enemy, it also exercises a legitimate right to defend its own and Lebanon's security. Second, this means that Syria rejects all forms of extortion, threats and maneuvers seeking to prevent it from practicing its role: protecting the Lebanese arena and preventing Israeli and U.S. conditions from being imposed on this arena under the pretext of returning to the situation that existed prior to the latest events in Lebanon. Third, this means that those who assume that their shuttle movements and proposed formulas which serve Israel's ambitions--imposing an Israeli mandate over the Lebanese arena--will create the same political results, have to be well aware that Syria's clear stand will not be subject to even the slightest change. This means that any formula that would prevent the occurrence of confrontation must proceed from the premises of curbing Israel's expansionist policy and stopping Israeli intervention in Lebanese affairs. Such intervention takes the form of occupation through the agent Sa'd Haddad's statelet in the Lebanese border strip, custodianship over such and such a side in the Lebanese arena and intensive attacks on the Lebanese areas and Palestinian camps under the pretext of meeting Israel's security requirements.

The recent belligerent Israeli threats against Lebanon and Syria began when the Lebanese legitimate authorities proceeded to initiative dialogue in order to achieve national accord with the backing of Syria, which has exerted efforts throughout the past years for the purpose of achieving Lebanon's stability and consolidating the unity of its people and territory within the framework of maintaining its Arab character.

Whenever the remotest signs of achieving accord loom on the horizon, however, Israel and those protecting and bolstering it act to impede and dash any opportunities for achieving Lebanese national accord, since such an accord would result in preventing Israel from practicing extortion and playing the card of its agent Sa'd Haddad or the internationalization card, which constitutes a cover for Israel and would enable it to expand in southern Lebanon and implement its aggressive objective, reaching the Litani.

President Sarkis's assertion that the legitimate authorities are proceeding with the implementation of the national accord program and that Lebanon supports Syria in confronting the current challenges removes from Israel and the United States all the cards of maneuvers, extortion and bargaining and blatantly exposes the Israeli military preparations for an attack on Lebanon and Syria.

A few days ago the Syrian official spokesman warned the Arabs and the world of the dangers of such an Israeli aggressive scheme. Ever since its establishment Israel has been practicing a policy of expansion and aggression against the Arabs with the support and backing of the imperialist camp led by the United States. Due to the threats to the region and world, the international community has to shoulder its responsibilities through deterring the Israeli aggression in order to maintain world security and peace.

When Syria confronts the Zionist aggression and downs Israeli planes, it defends not only its own security and that of Lebanon, but it defends the Arab future against the Camp David plot. Syria does not stand alone in the battle; it is supported by the Arab masses and the world's socialist and progressive elements. Thus, on this basis, the results of the conflict should be taken into account when Israel or those supporting it venture to undertake any aggression.

PAPER DECLARES SYRIA WILL NOT YIELD TO THREATS

JN150717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 May 81

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Syria Will Neither Yield to Threats Nor Relinquish Arab Rights and Dignity," the SAWT ATH-THAWRAH column says: Syria's noble stand and firm and courageous confrontation of the Zionist enemy, which is backed by U.S. imperialism, and determination to defend Arab rights, dignity and future embodies the Arab masses' aspirations and will, particularly at this critical and decisive stage.

When Syria defends Arab rights and affirms that it will neither allow the Zionist aggression on Lebanon and the Palestinian camps to continue nor stand silent on the Israeli threat to Arab security, it places the entire world face to face with the real causes of the existing situation and tension in the region.

These causes do not lie in the so-called Syrian missile crisis. Rather, they lie in the Zionist aggression and Israeli intervention in Lebanon's affairs. The missiles are part of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF]--the legitimate forces--and as such, they are used to protect Lebanon and the ADF.

The downing of two Israeli reconnaissance planes during the past 72 hours affirms the continuation of Israeli aggression and intervention. This also stresses the need for guaranteeing the requisites for confronting this aggression and preventing it from achieving its goals. Thus, tackling the crisis from its roots necessitates ending the impudent Israeli intervention in Lebanon's affairs and the existent and continuous Zionist aggression on the Lebanese and Palestinian masses.

The paper concludes: Syria's stand is clear, known and declared and Syria will not retract this stand, which is embodied by the determination to confront the Zionist aggression in the defense of Arab right and presence. Syria will neither yield to any threat nor relinquish Arab dignity and future.

USSR'S UMAROV PRAISES SYRIA'S STEADFASTNESS

JN141353 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Khadam Umarovic Umarov, first secretary of the Fergana Oblast party committee in the Uzbek SSR and deputy chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, has praised Syria's steadfastness and struggle at the forward confrontation line in defense of the Arab nation and the Palestinian issue.

During a meeting today with Dr Wahib Tannus, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and president of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society, Mr Umarov stressed that the Syrian people will be triumphant and will destroy all the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies. He said: The Syrian people are not alone in their struggle. They have on their side all the peace- liberation- and progress-loving people led by the friendly USSR, which is faithful to the Arab nation.

Comrade Tannus stressed that our people, due to the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, will destroy foreign conspiracies as it destroyed the domestic conspiracy and that it will inevitably be victorious in its just battle against imperialism, Zionism and Israel. Comrade Tannus praised the firm principled stands of the USSR and the socialist states on the Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue.

MEETING IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS OPENS

JN142218 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Damascus--The meeting of the international secretariat for solidarity with the Arab people and their central issue of Palestine began in the auditorium of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command this evening. This 2-day meeting is being held on the anniversary marking the usurpation of Palestine.

At the beginning of the meeting Brother 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, delivered a speech, which he began by greeting the brother participants. He praised the heroic role played by steadfast Syria in defense of Lebanon's territory and fraternal people. He said: While meeting today on the anniversary marking the usurpation of Palestine, we must adopt a serious stand at the side of the Palestinian revolution's struggle, the Lebanese National Movement and revolutionary Syria because this is one of our essential duties as justice- and peace-loving democratic forces.

Tawfiq Salihah, Regional Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the regional organizational office, then delivered a speech in which he welcomed the brothers in the name of our Syrian people and our great party under the leadership of Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, leader of our march and hero of the October liberation war. He talked about the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots against our struggling country to harm its steadfastness and impose capitulation on it. He stressed our people's determination under President Hafiz al-Asad to firmly confront aggression and oppose the imperialist and Zionist scheme regardless of sacrifices. He said: We as an Arab liberation movement are part of the world liberation movement, struggling together in one trench, depending on our own potential and the support of our friends in the world.

REPORTAGE ON BEGIN-HABIB CONTACTS 14-15 MAY

14 May Meeting

TA141919 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 May 81

[Report by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram]

[Text] What characterized the meeting between the prime minister and Philip Habib--a meeting that began at 1900 [1700 GMT] and ended about 40 minutes ago--was the haste with which it was held. In the afternoon it became known that the prime minister and Reagan's envoy were due to meet tomorrow around noon. But before much time had passed Philip Habib decided to return to Israel quickly. Everything was carried out under a veil of secrecy. In an unusual development, the media were not permitted to cover even the entrance of the U.S. representatives to the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv. At 1815 the U.S. delegation arrived. Mr Habib was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis. it was only 15 minutes later, at 1900, that the prime minister arrived. They were swallowed up in the dark Defense Ministry building for a discussion that lasted less than 90 minutes.

What took place at the meeting? The participants are maintaining absolute secrecy. Philip Habib will spend the night at the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Herzliyya. Will he meet with the prime minister again tomorrow? He probably will. Will he once again visit Beirut and Damascus? No one knows. There is no doubt that this was not a normal discussion. Some of the persons who took part in the talks held thus far were this evening requested to remain outside the conference room. All this, along with the speed with which Habib returned to Israel, raises a large question mark over what is going on.

HA'ARETZ Report

TA150653 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 May 81 pp 1, 2

[By political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Following the meeting between Philip Habib and Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Israeli sources said that Habib had apparently returned from Damascus emptyhanded. The sources added that Israel could not accept or agree to what Damascus describes as "proposals."

This morning Begin will convene a ministerial consultation in Tel Aviv to report on the results of the U.S. envoy's talks in Damascus and Beirut as well as to discuss the issue.

Western sources last night said that the Syrian president was trying to expand the negotiations to include, in addition to the issues of the missiles and the Christians on the Lebanese mountain, the entire Lebanese question, including Israel's massive aid to southern Lebanon. These sources described Habib's talks in Damascus as "absolutely unsatisfactory." The sources said that Hafiz al-Asad was not willing to remove the missiles from the Al-Biqa' valley since he regards them as a vital means of defense of his country.

In contrast, an Israeli Government source last night said that things did not look so bad and that the political process could continue even now. last night Israeli sources said that the Syrian military activities in Lebanon yesterday, particularly the firing of missiles at the Israeli drone and its downing, had no direct impact on the political process.

Jerusalem observers last night said that, at this stage, the chances of a political process are dimmer than ever.

Later Report

TA150520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] It has been reported in Jerusalem that Philip Habib most probably brought with him a negative reply from Damascus regarding a compromise that would include a withdrawal of the missiles from Lebanon. This morning there will be a further talk between Menahem Begin and Philip Habib.

15 May Talk

TA151015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] A talk between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. diplomat Philip Habib took place this morning. Correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the talk was also attended by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The talk lasted for about 1 hour.

The prime minister told correspondents after the meeting that efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully continue. Mr Begin noted that Syria had given no indication of being ready to revert to the status quo ante. Philip Habib will spend this Saturday in Israel.

Begin Comments

TA151059 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1042 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Political correspondent Gad Becker now has for us excerpts from the prime minister's statements [after meeting with Philip Habib on the morning of 15 May], first of all on the chances of a diplomatic settlement:

[Begin recording] [Begin] Usually, when one seeks, one finds, but we are only one factor here and the issue depends also on the other factor, and I have in mind Syria. Hence, nobody can measure the chances; the fact itself is all important. [as heard]

[Becker] The prime minister was asked to react to reports according to which the Soviets have moved navy units to the region. He said Israel received such reports; every side has its reports but this is an international problem, not merely a problem of Israel's. The prime minister was also asked whether Syria is giving any indications that it is ready for an agreement.

[Begin] It did not give any hint to the effect that it is ready to return the situation to its previous form or, as it is said in Latin: status quo ante. On the other hand, I can say that as far as this stance is concerned, namely, that the status quo ante is imperative, the positions of both the United States and Israel are identical. [end recording]

BEGIN TERMS SYRIAN DOWNING OF DRONE 'VERY SERIOUS'

TA141538 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Here is the prime minister's reaction to the Syrian missile firing: The downing of the drone is a very grave act. That is what Menahem Begin said this afternoon:

[Begin recording] [Begin--in English] It was shot down by the Syrians with a SAM-6, which they concentrated in Lebanon. It's a very serious event, because it proves how dangerous those missiles are for our other flyers and therefore we will have our duty to inform Mr Habib, who is coming now, or is already here in Jerusalem, to inform him about this development. It proves our thesis that those missiles are dangerous to our national security. [end recording] [unidentified correspondent translates Begin's statement into Hebrew]

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, how should Israel treat the downing of the plane today in Lebanese airspace?

[Begin] As it should.

[Unidentified correspondent] And what is the significance of the downing of the plane this morning?

[Begin] That those missiles are a danger to the national security of the State of Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you expect--do you have an optimistic expectation of Habib's arrival this evening?

[Begin] Optimistic, of course, We always have the hope of avoiding war and we will do all we can to avoid it. [end recording]

EYTAN SAYS FLIGHTS OVER LEBANON TO CONTINUE

TA142012 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 May 81

[Interview of Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan by military correspondent Dan Semama--time and place not stated; videotaped]

[Text] [Question] Lieutenant General Eytan, is it possible that the downing of the helicopters in Lebanese airspace is what in fact caused the introduction of the missiles into the Al-Biqa' valley and the situation we find ourselves in today?

[Answer] No. The Syrians had already made preparations to introduce missiles into the Al-Biqa' valley 2 weeks earlier, around Zahlah. The downing of Syrian aircraft in Lebanese airspace has been carried out, or has occurred quite often, over the last 2 years, as a result of Syrian intervention in both our intelligence activity in Lebanese airspace and in activity against the terrorists.

[Question] Chief of Staff, is there any special Syrian deployment these days, now, that could be an offensive deployment against Israel?

[Answer] Unusual steps of preparation are being taken in Syria, in all the sectors, both military and civilian, and whether, from such steps, Syria can take any offensive step against Israel--theoretically, yes, but for the moment there are no signs indicating this. I would attribute these Syrian moves more to what is happening in Lebanon.

[Question] The missiles are positioned in Lebanon and they are also firing at our aircraft. Will we stop the flights in Lebanese airspace because of these missiles?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Can, for example, a political arrangement which would restrict Israel's flights in Lebanese airspace or over the Al-Biqa' region be acceptable to us? And why?

[Answer] A political arrangement would be preferable to any other arrangement, today and tomorrow. In the State of Israel this activity, the freedom of action in Lebanese airspace, is vital. It has no substitute today.

[Question] Do you see any worsening in the situation by virtue of the fact that over the last 3 days they have also been firing these missiles and they fired and just today downed one of our drones, this morning?

[Answer] I do not know if this is a worsening of the situation. In the past the Syrians tried to stop us from acting in Lebanese airspace by means of aerial clashes. They failed in all of them. They did not stop us and they also fell. Now they have introduced a different dimension, which they think will give them an advantage. It does not require an expert pilot and it does not require anyone to put himself in danger and nothing like that which would mean fighting the Israeli quality: a ground missile--you fire it, it goes up and it hits or does not hit. This is a phenomenon of using measures to prevent us from doing those same things they tried to stop us from doing in the past and did not succeed. They downed one of our little drones and that happens; they downed a similar drone 1 and 1/2 years ago in Syrian airspace.

[Question] And the Israeli flights will continue?

[Answer] That is vital for the State of Israel, for its security and for its ability to be in a reasonable state of deterrence. We have no substitute for this today.

[Question] Chief of Staff, on another matter, with your permission: The prime minister said, from the Knesset podium, or rather, he disclosed, details about the intention to attack the missiles by means of planes on a certain day, on a certain date, and he disclosed the limitations which made the action impossible. The prime minister was attacked for those remarks and it was said that he had revealed security secrets. In your opinion, was any of the State of Israel's security secrets harmed, or was anything said that should not have been said in the prime minister's remarks?

[Answer] I cannot say about the prime minister, about the prime minister's remarks, whether they should have been said or not. I will only refer to what happened, from the security viewpoint, to us as a result of the fact that it became known a priori, that is, after the fact, that on a certain day we wanted, or we thought, or we planned to do something in certain weather. In my opinion no security damage was caused and nothing was jeopardized. The weather, as every one knows, affects aerial activity. Therefore, I was somewhat surprised at the military experts who said that terrible secrets of the State of Israel had been disclosed. No secret was disclosed.

PERES VISITS NORTH, COMMENTS ON DRONE DOWNING

TA141552 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpts] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres today visited settlements in the Galilee panhandle and the good fence. At the press conference in Metulla, Peres referred to the latest developments in the north:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think that a great deal depends on the meeting between Al-Asad and Philip Habib. In fact, what Philip Habib is trying to do, as I understand it, is to restore the status quo ante. I understand that Israel would agree to this. The question is whether Syria, too, is ready for this and it is still too early to judge this; as far as I know, not one binding answer has been received from Syria on this subject.

We need to overfly Lebanon in order to ensure early warning against any surprise attack. It must be borne in mind that the Syrians attacked us three times, one time after another, without any reasonable cause except for their desire to do us harm. We do not want to take any more chances on this--under no circumstances. Therefore we must firmly insist on the removal of the missiles. [end recording]

ALGERIA

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH BENDJEDID; DEPARTS 14 MAY

Bendjedid Meeting

LD141242 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general, this morning received Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. Also present at the meeting were Mohamed Cherif Messadia, member of the FLN Central Committee and official in charge of the Central Committee Political Bureau, and Mr Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Mr Abu al-Hul [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] members of the Fatah Central Committee.

Departure Statement

LD142058 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Algiers this afternoon at the end of a brief visit to our country, during which he held talks with Chadli Bendjedid, party secretary general and president of the republic. He was seen off at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Mohamed Cherif Messadia, Central Committee member and official in charge of the committee's Permanent Secretariat.

Before leaving, 'Arafat made a press statement in which he said that his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid were extremely important; firstly because they touched on grave matters, and secondly because of the difficult period through which the Arab nation is passing and the dangers engulfing it caused by repeated Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

'Arafat pointed out that the discussions covered all aspects of the situation in the region. He added that President Chadli Bendjedid responded to and showed understanding for the new developments. He reaffirmed Algeria's principled and firm stand on the side of the Palestine Arab just cause.

Asked for his evaluation of the situation in the Arab area in general and in southern Lebanon in particular, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said that the situation has become more tense and is capable of exploding, in light of the Israeli military concentrations in the south, which are intended to launch a wide-scale aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon.

'Arafat criticized statements by American officials, particularly the statements of [word indistinct] Allen. He described them as insolent. He said that these statements urge the Zionists to continue military aid to [words indistinct]. This, he said, is tantamount to a green light to carry out the expected aggression. He affirmed that the Palestine resistance is ready to face and foil the aggression [words indistinct].

LIBYA

'ARAFAT, AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESS RALLY FOR PALESTINE

'Arafat Address

LD142330 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 May 81

[Speech by Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat at a rally held in Tripoli to commemorate the 15 May 1948 anniversary of the "usurpation of Palestine"--live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Colonel Mu'ammar [applause], brothers, [chants] comrade leaders of the Palestinian revolution [applause], my people, oh fraternal and heroic Libyan people: [applause]

It is by no means a coincidence, dear brothers, that we hold this meeting on the 15 May anniversary, this painful anniversary, but we the revolution of the Palestinians know through the muzzle of the gun carried by this fighter in the Palestinian revolution [applause] what the meaning of this anniversary is--not an anniversary of (?sadness) but an anniversary of a covenant, the anniversary of an oath we make before the masses of our Arab nation [applause] that this revolution shall continue its struggle and [word indistinct] carrying its rifle until the liberation of Palestine [applause], until we raise this flag, the flag of the Palestinian revolution, over the hills of Jerusalem and say that Jerusalem is Arab and shall remain so. [applause]

Yes, dear brothers, there shall be no capitulation [words indistinct] but the ones who have the right to say to us [word indistinct] are those heroes in the bastion of (?steadfastness) in southern Lebanon [applause]. No to capitulation and no to kneeling! From here we declare full mobilization for the Palestinian revolution, and all should join the Palestinian revolution. [applause and chants]

Yes it pleases me to hear this slogan and how much it pleases me to hear this slogan, this chanting repeated, but how much wounded Palestine smiles when the rifles are raised and hands are raised carrying rifles. [applause] Yes, from here [words indistinct] general mobilization to include all Palestinians [chants], and every Palestinian who does not respond to this general mobilization is negligent. Yes, dear brothers, I say this at this time, dear brothers, and I hope that we will be a little above chanting--yes to chanting, because it moves the masses--but not through chanting alone will Palestine be liberated. [applause]

I say, dear brothers, at this [words indistinct] we must know the meaning of the imperialist attack, the meaning of the American attack in this region. It is by no means a coincidence in our region that one (?finds) in the Mediterranean the 6th Fleet, in the Red Sea, the Gulf, in the Indian Ocean the 5th and [word indistinct] and the 7th Fleet. The Rapid Deployment Force has been announced. This talk is by no means a coincidence, brothers. This (?role) is planned. America is planning [chants against the United States] to impose its domination over this region, brothers. And when I say this is a bad time for Arabs this is not being poetic and [words indistinct]. We must admit that America and the Zionist enemy were able to bring down the fortified Egyptian bastion through As-Sadat's capitulation. The big Egyptian bastion fell through As-Sadat's capitulation. We must know what it means to provide facilities and bases at Ra's Banas in Egypt. [applause]

But I know this Egyptian people, which has provided 86,000 martyrs and wounded men since 1948 in the defense of Palestine and the Arab nation.[applause]

Now we must know this fact, then move to what is happening in the Sudan, and then to what is happening in Somalia. At Berbera there is an American base, at [words indistinct] on Masirah island in Oman. In addition to the facilities, I can give figures, and not in a (?demagogic manner). Listen, in addition, to the facilities granted in the Gulf to the 5th and the 7th Fleets, which were joined later, after Carter's announcement, by units of the British fleet. We must know these facts.

America is the head of terrorism in the world, the organized international terrorism which is now happening. What is now happening in southern Lebanon? What is now happening in southern Lebanon at the hands of this Zionist enemy, which uses the most modern American weapons--including those banned internationally? This is not called [word indistinct] in the dictionary, brothers. It is called international [words indistinct] carried out by the [words indistinct]. This is the real terror. We must understand that the tons of bombs dropped on Palestinian camps and Lebanese cities and villages is terror--is official, organized terror.

This talk, brothers, is not accidental. Because, after the statements by U.S. officials, the campaigns and attacks have started and also the official and organized aggression by air, land and sea against the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces. Brothers, I remind you that 72 hours ago Begin made a statement with all insolence in which he said, and he used the word to destroy, I want to destroy and wipe out the Palestinians.

I tell him: Wake up. This Palestinian revolution is gigantic, and no one can threaten it. [applause] I tell him that no one can destroy this gigantic Palestinian revolution. This Palestinian revolution threatens and cannot be threatened. It frightens but does not fear. [applause]

Al-Qadhdhafi Address

LD150102 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2013 GMT 14 May 81

[Speech by Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a rally held in Tripoli to commemorate the anniversary of the "usurpation of Palestine" on 15 May 1948--live]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Our stand here with the Leaders of the Palestine revolution headed by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is extremely important to us Libyans in particular and to all Arabs in general. [applause]

First, as far as Fatah is concerned, the presence of its leaders with us here today in Tripoli, in Libya, gives a true reply to the gloaters who felt happy to see an artificial crisis--or rather who believed there was a crisis between Libya and Fatah. The truth of the matter is that there can never be a crisis between the Great 1 September Revolution and the Palestine revolution. [chants and applause] [passage indistinct]

All the Palestinians, inside and outside the occupied territory, support the PLO. Who, then, can have the right to exclude the PLO? It is necessary to safeguard the PLO and to support it internationally, so that the world may know that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [applause]

The best proof of the absence of any conflicts between the PLO and the Palestinian masses' desire to set up a people's basic congress is the fact that now, along with the Palestinian people's congress and Palestinian revolutionary committees, we have with us here in Libya the PLO chairman--the leader of the Palestine resistance and the PLO. There is no conflict here between the leadership of the Palestine resistance, the PLO, Abu 'Ammar himself and the people's congresses and revolutionary committees. All that is needed is revolution. Otherwise we would be in conflict with the masses, with the freedom of the masses, and with democracy. [passage indistinct]

Thus, in an arena like Libya the Palestinian masses must enjoy their freedom and express their will in a manner that bolsters the PLO, Abu 'Ammar himself and the leadership of the Palestine resistance [applause]--and in a manner that strengthens the Palestinian stand. The freedom of the masses cannot pose a threat to their cause. On the contrary, when the masses feel free, they support their cause. The masses without freedom will lose their cause. [passage indistinct]

I was sorry to see some Fatah youth leave the arena and become lost to the masses at a time when they should have been the ones to form the revolutionary committees with the other Palestinian revolutionary youth in the other fronts. There was no justification for the Fatah youth to leave the arena. [passage indistinct]

The Palestinians are subject neither to the will of the Libyans nor to the will of the Algerians or that of the Egyptians. Once they come under the will of other Arabs, the Palestinian cause will cease to exist. [passage indistinct]

The presence of the Palestine resistance leaders with us today has great significance to us Libyans in particular and to the Arabs and indeed to the world in general. The United States has asked the Libyan People's Bureau with all its staff and possessions to leave within 5 days, because, they said, Libya supports terrorism. But the terrorism referred to in this case is Libya's absolute support for the Palestine cause and the Palestine armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine. [applause] Thus the Palestine resistance leaders and fighters, are with us today. Indeed, they are engaged in fighting in Lebanon and inside Palestine. [words indistinct]

This fact constitutes a reply to the United States today. If the United States believes that by exerting some pressure it can force us to stop supporting the Palestine armed struggle, then we say: to hell with America, indeed. [applause and chants]

This filthy policy which the United States pursues is well known. It applies some pressure hoping that the person subjected to the pressure will submit and yield in the end. [passage indistinct]

Our reply to America today, America which expects us to make concessions, is this meeting of ours with the leadership of the Palestine resistance. Let their voice be loudly heard from Tripoli and Libya. We stand forever with the armed struggle and for the liberation of Palestine until victory or martyrdom. [applause and chants] This is our reply to America.

We control our own affairs and we have made a decision. We have decided to arm the Palestine resistance even if we have to sell the rings on our fingers and sell our clothes.

This is the kind of talk we are not ashamed to utter. These are not empty words nor are they intended for rhetoric or for consumption. They are also not intended as a way to collect votes, for we have no elections. These are words we are not ashamed to say.

We have sold our clothes in order to arm the Algerian revolution. Today, we are rich and we can equip the Palestine revolution with the best of arms. [applause and prolonged chants]

Let America and the world hear: Guns, ammunition, missiles and money are finding their way into the hands of the Palestinians. [prolonged applause and chants] We declare to America: We are free to make the decisions we choose. We are prepared to arm the Palestinian resistance with any arms it can absorb. [applause]

We wish to show America that the filthy policy it pursues against us is unsuccesful. It is a losing policy. We take an obstinate attitude toward America and we face its challenge with a challenge. In the face of what the United States has done to us, today, in front of the Palestine resistance, we declare we will arm and finance the Palestine resistance with all our potential. [prolonged applause]

In spite of America, we declare that we will arm the Palestine resistance movement with all the arms it can absorb and all we can buy. [words indistinct] [prolonged applause] These arms tomorrow will make their way to the Palestine resistance.

If they want to fight us, they are welcome to fight us. The Lebanese people are falling victim daily. Daily, Palestinian victims are falling. The Syrian people are in a confrontation. We have fought their countries for 60 years. Before the United States, we fought against the Italians. If they wish to fight us, they are welcome to do so. They will have yet another Vietnam. [applause, chants]

We must admit that for the past 30 years, the enemy has been scoring successive victories in implementing his strategic plan, namely, the establishment of a Zionist state in the heart of the Arab homeland at the expense of the Arab existence.

What is really frightening is the fact that if the hostile advance is matched by an Arab retreat, as is the case today, then in the coming years we will witness a situation (?which touches the heart) of Arab existence.

The question in fact is not one of independence and nonindependence, but one of existence and nonexistence. The Arab existence in the Arab homeland is threatened. It is indeed threatened today by American bases and American (?fleets), which form a strategic umbrella for Zionist advances [word indistinct]. Today, after 30 years, Jerusalem has been turned into a capital of the Jewish state [words indistinct]. The enemy continues to implement this strategy under the U.S. umbrella.

The U.S. umbrella also succeeded in building bridgeheads and springboards on Arab soil. Evidence of this is seen in the bases which are being built in Egypt, Sudan, Oman and Somalia, not even including areas in a number of other Arab states where there are camps ready for American forces to enter at any moment and whose airports, ports, [words indistinct] and even houses are considered American property. These are ready in the peninsula and (?parts) of North Africa and (?other) areas.

Today, danger to the Arab existence is real. The enemy senses this Arab retreat, this failure, particularly after losing the war which Iraq and Jordan, the Gulf, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, are waging against Iran. Today, the oil revenue of the Gulf, the peninsula, is financing the war against the Iranian revolution as a proxy for America. The Jordanian Army and the Iraqi Army today are fighting the Iranian revolution on America's behalf and on behalf of (?Israel). This (?has caused a pan-Arab loss). The enemy sensed this [word indistinct] and strategic hesitation. And now he comes to us with conditions never before heard of throughout history. [passage indistinct] The Syrians shot the planes down. The enemy will probably protest tomorrow. And tomorrow he may launch raids, maybe against Syria and Syrian forces in Lebanon, and seek greater revenge from the Palestinians and the Lebanese, seeking vengeance from the Arabs at any rate. [passage indistinct]

The Syrian missiles are approximately northeast of Beirut. [Passage indistinct] This is something which no mind can understand. They are closer to Syria than to Lebanon. There are some Syrian forces there. The Israelis attacked them and they attacked helicopters [passage indistinct]. The Syrians were forced to deploy air defenses to protect their forces. The Israelis said: No, you must remove the missiles and your forces must remain without air defenses, so that when our planes raid there they will not be shot down. What terms! [Passage indistinct] This is the ultimate in defience and contempt. You would not wish to be proud of being an [words indistinct] or an Arab at all.

They said that the planes have the right to fly over Syria and Lebanon to gather information and identify Palestinian positions so that they can hit them accurately. And you Arabs have no right to intercept our planes or hit them with missiles. [Words indistinct] today Lebanon as a state is finished; Lebanon is not an independent state because of Israeli aggression. Lebanon has lost its independence. Today, Israeli planes are flying over Beirut, the capital of an Arab state, which is a member of the Arab League. [passage indistinct]

In truth, this is a situation which shows that the preparations have not been completed. The hour of decision has not yet arrived. The Arab nation is not [words indistinct]. It has money, weapons and manpower. It has also a large strategic surface area, from the ocean to the Gulf, but it has not got the men. [Passage indistinct] the situation is very serious. It actually threatens Arab existence. This situation is getting worse day after day and is accompanied by bitterness, contempt and disregard of the Arab nation. Today, our dignity is (?trampled on) [words indistinct] in fact today (?we have) more planes than Israel. We have more (?money) and our number is greater. But the miracle has not occurred. The hour of decision has not come. [Words indistinct] the enemy is encroaching and he is contemptuous, and it is retreat (?on the part of the Arabs).

In actual fact, I suggest to (?all) the Palestinian resistance, the Libyan people and the (?rest of the Arabs) that until the true hour of decision is at hand when we close our eyes and ears, we should say to ourselves: Let it be on us and on our enemy and be it even with atomic bombs. [applause, shouts] But until that hour is at hand, it is necessary for (?Abu 'Ammar) and all the Palestinian resistance, (?in order) to mobilize all the Palestinian forces from all regions of the world materially and morally, to open the doors of the resistance to all Arab volunteers. [applause] This is because the enemy, as Abu 'Ammar told you today, wants to destroy the Palestinian resistance. [words indistinct] How can this nation give? Are not there any men? The population is 150 million. They eat and drink like (?machines) every day. If each Arab state (?supplies 250 or 500) in a short space of time there will be 20,000 volunteers. [Words indistinct] the Palestinian resistance from now on must [words indistinct] open its doors to volunteers and the Arabs who sing the praises of palestine, and (?the Arab nation), which extends from the ocean to the Gulf, should volunteer [words indistinct] so that we can get rid of this dishonor. One should take a rifle [words indistinct] and fight alongside the Palestinian resistance, at least to recoup the losses.

On the other hand, the Lebanese Government does not want us to (?cause it embarrassment in front of the nations). The masses everywhere keep saying: (?See) the Arab governments, the Arab rulers, the leaders--where are the revolutions? Where are the leaders of the revolutions? How can Lebanon be raided by planes and invaded by the enemy while you sit and watch? The Lebanese Government must define its attitude--either it accepts Arab forces and everyone will come forward to defend Lebanon, or it declares that it is satisfied with this (?degradation) and the Israeli forces are much better to them than the forces of Arab regimes. Then we can explain this to our peoples and everyone will define his position. [words indistinct]

Every citizen in the street today levels insults and abuse against all the Arab governments and all the Arab armies. Why? Because he says that why this country, who is a member of the Arab League and is supposed to be defended collectively according to the Arab League Charter, should be exposed to this aggression and there is not one who sent even one battalion [words indistinct]. But the Lebanese Government must define its position. If you send a battalion tomorrow, the Lebanese Government accepts Arab armies? If it does accept them, then every Arab ruler will appear as he really is--that is, whether he is part of the Arab nation or with its enemy. [words indistinct]

The Israelis themselves are telling you. They are showing you that they are not only enemies of the Palestinian people but that they are enemies of every one of you, one by one, until they liquidate you. They liquidated Palestine. Today they are occupying Lebanon. After they occupy Lebanon then comes Syria's turn, and tomorrow Jordan follows and tomorrow they will physically take Egypt. [passage indistinct]

Either the Arab governments should (?be shamed) in front of the Arab masses to (?show) their cowardice (?by Lebanon permitting the) entry of Arab forces to defend it while the Arab governments and their armies [word indistinct] be defeatist and stand with arms folded in front of the enemy or the Arabs who feel that they have some sense of Arabism, dignity and Arab blood should send their armies to Lebanon and defend it. [passage indistinct]

We are (?prepared) to send missiles to Lebanon to shoot down Israeli planes which enter Lebanon. [applause] This we offered some 2 years ago or more. We are (?offering) it once again, so that the Lebanese Government may be seen as it really is, and may not (?have the excuse) of putting us on the spot by saying that Lebanon was finished while you were standing by watching.

How can we be watching? We are prepared to enter Lebanon to fight. However, the Lebanese Government must define its position. The Israeli planes are entitled to destroy the Syrian forces who are defending Syria's borders yet we do not have the right to destroy the (?freedom) of the traitor Sa'd Haddad inside Lebanon. You would expect that the Arab planes would be raiding Sa'd Haddad daily at least. Yet Israeli planes are daily destroying An-Nabatiyyah and raiding Palestinian camps and refugee camps. [passage indistinct] You would expect that the Arab force would form a strategic umbrella for the Palestinian resistance to liberate Palestine and destroy Israeli settlements in Palestine. [applause] What we believe is that no two people can differ over this situation. However, what is strange is that there are those people who accept such a situation from Arab rulers and Arab armies. [words indistinct] These rulers are rich. Look at Kuwait--they have billions, which can wipe Israel from the face of the earth. Saudi Arabia produces 12 million barrels of oil daily--six times what Libya produces. It gives it to America. [passage indistinct]

By God, these people are swines and not amirs. They are swines of the peninsula. [applause and cheers] If there is anyone in Saudi Arabia who has a sense of shame or calls himself a Muslim or an Arab he should purge the Peninsula. There is no Arabism or Islam on the Arabian Peninsula. More than 12 million barrels of Arab oil goes to America daily. What does Saudi Arabia do with the oil revenue? The people are walking barefoot and are naked and begging. They live in tents and live on camels. Twelve million barrels daily! If we had this we do not know what we would have done. We could have (?goldplated the whole earth) with the revenue from 12 million barrels daily. There are 500 Saudi princes who must be apprehended and placed on trial and be questioned about the revenue of 12 million barrels of oil daily. [applause and cheers] The projects which are publicized every day [words indistinct] are not worth more than one million barrels. [passage indistinct] Saudi Arabia increased its production but this [words indistinct] reduced its production. It should be thanked. [words indistinct]

Kuwait has about 500 people. What is their revenue? [applause and cheers] What we are saying is that the Arabs are rich and posses all the potential. [passage indistinct]

Abu 'Ammar returned from the rich Arabian Peninsula penniless. I saw that there was nothing in his pocket. This means that they did not give him any money. We know they do not give him anything. They do not give to the Palestinians or the resistance. [words indistinct] They are quite happy to see Lebanon being destroyed. They are happy to see the Palestinian people being destroyed. They are happy to see the enemy grow, yet they (?shout about) liberating Jerusalem [words indistinct] here is Jerusalem still occupied. We challenge them. We challenge the 500 swines on the Peninsula to liberate Jerusalem if they are able to do so. By God they will never liberate it. [words indistinct] I challenge them in front of the whole world. Let them liberate Jerusalem, never mind about Palestine. [Words indistinct] let Saudi Arabia liberate it. It has the guns, the planes, the tanks and the money. Jerusalem is there in front of it--let it liberate it. [Words indistinct] we must incite day and night. We must incite the Arab armies, workers, peasants, students, intellectuals and revolutionaries [words indistinct]. We are in a very bad situation. After several years you will probably become like the red Indians. If Syria falls there will be no more Arab existence. [Words indistinct] until the hour (?of decision) is at hand, you must volunteer and you must arm the Palestinian resistance. You must give them your money, and to hell with America. [applause and cheers]

DJIBOUTI

PRESIDENT GOULED CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND

LD112026 Djibourti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 11 May 81 EA

[Text] The president of Djibouti, His Excellency Hassan Gouled Aptidon, today sent a message of congratulations to Francois Mitterrand on winning the French presidential elections. In his message, President Gouled said:

The people of Djibouti, the government and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as president of your country. We also wish you [words indistinct]. I am sure that the friendship and cooperation existing between our two peoples and countries will strengthen even further.

ETHIOPIA

COMMUNIQUE ON COPWE DELEGATION VISIT TO GREECE

LD101644 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 10 May 81 EA

[Text] The Greek Communist Party has joined other West European communist parties in expressing profound solidarity with the Ethiopian revolution and admiration for our revolution's exemplary role in Africa. This was contained in a joint communique issued by Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and the Greek Communist Party today at the end of a 5-day visit to Greece by a COPWE delegation led by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee.

The communique says the head of the COPWE delegation held talks with the Greek Communist Party leaders, and the Greek Communist Party leaders praised the gallant struggle of the Ethiopian peoples against imperialism and colonialism in defense of their national independence.

The COPWE delegation, led by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, briefed the Greek Communist Party leaders on the Ethiopian people's struggles before and after the eruption of the popular revolution and on the revolutionary gains attained so far. The Ethiopian delegation also expressed its concern over the Reagan policy and the U.S. and NATO military concentrations in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions.

In the joint communique, released after their talks, the two parties expressed solidarity with all forces fighting for independence, freedom, democracy, justice and peace. In conclusion, the COPWE delegation invited the Greek Communist Party leaders to visit Ethiopia. The invitation was warmly accepted.

UGANDA

MUWANGA LEAVES FOR AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST TOUR

LD132138 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 13 May 81 EA

[Text] The vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has left for a tour of Africa and the Middle East. The first stop is the Sudan followed by Egypt, Iraq and Algeria. Mr Muwanga is expected to discuss matters of bilateral interest and others related to Afro-Arab cooperation with the leaders of the four countries. He is accompanied by the ministers of transport, Mr Akena Pojok; of state for foreign affairs, Dr Picho Owiny; and the chief of staff, Brig Oyite Ojok. He was seen off at Entebbe Airport by the commander of the Uganda National Liberation Army, Maj Gen Tito Okello; the minister of cooperatives, Mr Yona Kanyamozi; and the minister of state in the office of the vice president, Mr Peter Otai.

CAMEROON

COMMENTARY VIEWS ELECTION OF FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

AB121209 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 12 May 81

[Station commentary by Joseph (Makembi)]

[Text] So the French people have chosen what they had so far considered to be adventurism, [word indistinct] chaos. They have finally chosen Francois Mitterrand, who had continuously taken second place in previous elections, the other leader of French policy. It is justly [words indistinct] because Valery Giscard d'Estaing [words indistinct] that Francois Mitterrand has won. Giscard has gone too fast, as in the race between a hare and a tortoise. This fable has been proved. But this victory of the left in France shows especially how much the French people are against this permanent group in power for a long period--the same team of leaders representing the same social groups. This permanency has led and kept the country these past few years in a crisis whose effect the French feel every day. What the French people are waiting for now are political actions, decisions and changes they believe Mitterrand is likely to take or make. But the danger confronting the new president is (?the pressure of) the communist machinery on him. Marchais has stressed the Communist Party's contribution to Mitterrand's election. We cannot see him pushing the communists away from power without risking social disturbances and general strikes. [words indistinct] Marchais and communism will give some problems to the Quai d'Orsay which will be just like a new household [words indistinct]. It will also be interesting to follow this couple, Giscard and Chirac. Even as they are thrown into opposition, the two men will certainly battle for the position of leader of the opposition. In this, Valery Giscard d'Estaing has not yet made his intentions known. In any case, the choice of the French people has brought about an event in France. The alternative has now become a reality and socialism has succeeded Gaullism. But will this change the situation in France, that is, the settling of the problems of inflation, unemployment and (?hunger)?

We should recall that a change is not a goal in itself and that we Africans have nothing to say about the choice of the French people, through our cooperation with France.

ZAIRE

USSR PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION RECEIVED BY MOBUTU

AB142152 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1755 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Kinshasa, 14 May (AZAP)--Future relations between Zaire and the Soviet Union was the main topic of discussion at the audience which the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, granted on Thursday at Camp Tshatshi to the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Mr Barkauskas Antanas Stasevich, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The deputy chairman indicated after the audience that his country expects to further develop its relations with Zaire and the Russian parliamentary delegation's stay in Zaire shows the excellent relations between the two countries. He said that beyond the difference in their political systems, cooperation is always possible, since the important thing is to be able to arrive at an exchange of experience in the people's interest. This is the kind of relations that the Soviet parliament expects to develop with the Legislative Council, he said.

Concerning East-West detente, Mr Barkauskas Antanas Stasevich said that the Supreme Soviet is actively engaged in it, adding that detente is always possible in a world where all people desire peace.

Present at the audience were the speaker and deputy speaker of the Legislative Council, Citizen Nzundumyu and Citizen Isia Amundala; the vice first commissioner of state for foreign affairs, Citizen Bomboko; Zaire's ambassador to Moscow, Citizen Kabeya, and the USSR ambassador to Zaire, Mr Ivan Ivanovich Marchuk.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO MITTERRAND

AB131014 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 13 May 81 p 1

[Text] Abidjan, 13 May (FRATERNITE MATIN)--Our head of state, President Houphouet-Boigny, has sent a warm message of congratulations to the new president of the French republic, Mr Francois Mitterrand.

In the message, the head of state spoke of the privileged ties uniting Ivory Coast and France and hopes that the friendship and cooperation between our two countries will further strengthen.

President Houphouet said particularly that he expects new moves from President Mitterrand so that France and its friends "do everything in their power to end the disastrous stranglehold of speculators and monopolies on the economic relations between the developing and the developed countries."

In this struggle, like in the struggle for peace, justice, human rights, human dignity and equitable reward for labor, France will always find Ivory Coast by its side.

In view of its importance, here once again is the message of congratulations sent by President Houphouet to Mr Mitterrand following his very successful election to the highest public office:

"Mr President, the role which France plays in the world, its interest in the problems of the developing countries, and above all, the privileged ties between it and the Ivory Coast makes your election of considerable importance to Ivorians. This is why, while sending you, on my behalf and on behalf of all, my very sincere and warm congratulations, I must emphasize to you our hope to see the friendship and cooperation between France and Ivory Coast further strengthen and develop in a healthy atmosphere of understanding, esteem and mutual respect.

"Generally, we are expecting new and sustained moves so that France and its friends do everything in their power to end the disastrous stranglehold of speculators and monopolies on the economic relations between the developing and the developed countries. We shall be with you in the search for peace and in defending our common ideals to ensure a world of justice in which human rights and dignity will not be treaded upon, and in which man's labor will equitably be rewarded.

"With my ardent wishes for the prosperity and greatness of France, and a successful tenure of office, please accept, Mr President, my highest and cordial regards."

COMMUNIQUE SEEKS RELEASE OF DRAFTED WORKERS

AB110825 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] The French section of Amnesty International has sent a communique to Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny asking for the release of workers imprisoned or drafted into the Ivorian army following trade union demands. According to the communique published by the organization, many Ivorian workers have been imprisoned for trade union activities since last December. About eight workers were arrested between 4 and 8 December following a union meeting, and are being detained secretly at the central police station in Abidjan. They were accused of engaging in subversive activities. The communique adds that on 12 December, many journalists and secretaries of the Ivorian Press Agency, AIP, and the Ivorian Radio and Television, RTI, were drafted into the army. A hundred others have been banned from entering the offices of the RTI. The communique states that all these events took place after many months of union meetings to make demands which are purely material.

KADUNA GOVERNOR FILES IMPEACHMENT CHALLENGE

AB141554 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Governor Balarabe Musa of Kaduna state has formally filed his suit at the Kaduna high court challenging the move by the State Assembly to impeach him. Cited as defendants in the case are the House of Assembly; the speaker, Alhaji Abubakar Mamman Danmusa, the majority leader, Alhaji Dauda Mani, and 68 others.

Governor Balarabe Musa (?seeks) among other things a declaration that the impeachment move was against the rule of national justice and unconstitutional. He is also seeking for a court declaration that it is against the rule of law and unconstitutional for the speaker, Alhaji Mamman Danmusa, to preside over the sitting of the house or exercise any power in relation to any proceedings against him, as he has expressly taken an extremely biased stand against him.

In a motion accompanying the suit, Governor Balarabe Musa is asking for an order refraining the 71 defendants from taking any further steps against him under Section 170 of the Constitution in respect of the impeachment delegation. Both the suit and the motion were filed on behalf of the governor by his counsel, Chief Bukari Obisesan. No date has been fixed for hearing the two actions.

STANDARD OPPOSES REPEAL OF CLARK AMENDMENT

AB150956 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 15 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In its editorial the NIGERIAN STANDARD comments on the move by the United States to repeal a 6-year old law which placed a ban on aid to rebel forces in Angola. The paper warns that such a move will constitute a negation of the aspirations of all Africans. The STANDARD regards the U.S. involvement in all areas of conflict in Africa as a desperate bid to flex muscles in its cold war with the Soviet Union. It however hopes that the joint session of the American House of Representatives and the Senate committee will choose the path of reason by rejecting the move.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION--Nigeria exported over 47 million barrels of crude oil last February. According to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, more than 54 million barrels were produced during the period. The corporation also disclosed that the three refineries in the country were supplied with a total of 4,598,650 barrels for domestic consumption. [Text] [Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 4 May 81 AB]

TOGO

AFRICAN DENUNCIATION OF BOTHA VISIT TO U.S. NOTED

AB150954 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] The 50 African countries of the United Nations yesterday described racist South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha's invitation to Washington as an unfriendly act. During a press conference yesterday, the chairman of the African group, Mr Paul Rupia of Tanzania, stated that as a neo-Nazi entity, an enemy of the UN Charter and an agent of racist rule, South Africa does not qualify for an official invitation.

This statement coincided with the talks in Washington between Mr Pik Botha and Mr Alexander Haig, the American secretary of state. The two men were expected to discuss, in particular, the problem of Namibia, which is governed by Pretoria against the will of the United Nations.

ANGOLA

MOBUTU, DOS SANTOS DISCUSS COOPERATION, NAMIBIA

LD141943 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 May 81 EA

[Text] General Mobuto Sese Seko, president of the MPR and of the Republic of Zaire, returned home yesterday after a visit to the People's Republic of Angola, where he held talks with Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola on bilateral relations and the situation in southern Africa. During the talks the two presidents and their delegations reaffirmed the need to activate cooperation between Angola and Zaire. Accordingly, the two sides commended the deep analysis of the issues related to cooperation between Angola and Zaire made by the Angolan-Zairian intergovernmental joint commission.

Regarding the situation in southern Africa, Presidents Jose Fduardo dos Santos and Mobutu Sese Seko reaffirmed their unwaving solidarity with SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people, and condemned each and every settlement for Namibia not based on UN Resolution 435 on Namibia, which is illegally occupied by South Africa. The Angolan-Zairian talks were held in a cordial atmosphere.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON BOTHA'S U.S. VISIT

LD141814 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 May 81 EA

[Text] In a communique issued in Luanda yesterday, SWAPO again condemned the imperialist maneuvers aimed at slowing down the process for Namibia's independence.

The communique was issued in connection with the visit to Washington by South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha. The SWAPO communique called on the international public to take note of the fact that the visit by the racist foreign minister to the United States, a country whose present administration considers the Pretoria minority clique as a traditional military ally, followed immediately the meeting of the foreign ministers of the NATO member countries held in Rome, at which the NATO countries expressed their hostility toward national liberation movements.

In its efforts to expand its sphere of influence and domination in the world, the Ronald Reagan government--which rejects SWAPO, even though it is internationally recognized as the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people, calling it an international terrorist movement--intends to establish with its NATO allies the so-called South Atlantic treaty, in which the Pretoria fascists will be the chief participants. Accordingly, it would install its Rapid Deployment Force in the region of the cape.

Finally, SWAPO said that it is ready to participate in general elections under UN supervision, based on Security Council Resolution 435. It also expressed its determination to fight the sinister maneuvers of the Western countries, which are aimed at destroying this resolution, until attaining independence and the inalienable rights of the Namibian people.